

THE DAY JANET'S DREAM CAME TRUE



JANET'S mother wheels her off to hospital to have the plaster casts removed.

LITTLE Janet Myers wanted three things more than anything else in the world.

She hoped that the operation on her legs would be successful.

She wished she could run and play like other children.

She dreamed of owning a pony and trap.

And now her dreams are coming true.

For on the day the plaster casts were taken off her legs after the operation, 12-year-old Janet, from St Helens, Merseyside, heard that she had won £1,000 in The Sun's Hopes, Wishes and Dreams contest.

On the same day she walked, unaided, across a room.

And now she is pushing ahead with plans to buy her pony and trap.

Moody blues singer Ray Thomas, who has made a solo record called Hopes, Wishes and Dreams, presented Janet with her £1,000 cheque. Then he whisked her off by limousine to a stables at Standish, near Wigan, where the owner, Mr Len Davis, had arranged for her to 'test-drive' a pony and trap.

'I was a bit scared when she asked me to be her passenger,' said Ray.

'But she was a super driver. No doubt about it, she has a way with horses.'

'I can't think of anyone I



JANET takes the reins with Ray Thomas beside her, and proves she has a way with horses.

would rather have won the prize.

'She has been so brave about her troubles.'

Janet was born with a spastic condition which caused her knees to turn in and made it impossible for her to put her heels to the ground. She said: 'At school I couldn't join in when the others played games — I had to read books instead.'

'There were times when I was on crutches, and times when I had calipers.'

'And I'll always have to wear ugly, built-up shoes.'

The first thing she's going to do with her prize money is to buy a pair of 'desert wellies' — the fashionable sandals which are all the rage with the girls at her school. 'Now I think I'm the luckiest person in the whole world,' she said.

Janet is the eldest of three children of 38-year-old glass-worker Mr John Myers and his wife June.

Mrs Myers, 35, said: 'The contest win was a marvellous surprise.'

'We had forgotten all about Janet entering — we were too involved with her operation.'

Janet's 11-year-old brother, David, and sister, Helen, 7, don't expect her to buy them a present from her winnings.

'Why should she?' said David.

'She has had all the bad luck and been ever so brave.'

'She deserves all that money. I think it's smashing.'

Story by Ann Buchanan, pictures by Tony Eyles by courtesy of The Sun.

VAC makes its first visit to Scotland

THE Society's Visiting Aids Centre—a mobile exhibition of aids and equipment for the handicapped—is making its first visit to Scotland from August 30 to September 16. The visit has been arranged in conjunction with the Scottish Council for Spastics and the trailer will stand in the grounds of Donaldsons School for the Deaf, West Coates, Edinburgh.

The VAC has already visited about 140 cities and towns in England and Wales.

At last — TV show for disabled to be seen nationally

WHAT Spastics News says today, ITV heeds tomorrow! In February we published a front-page story headed 'Why can't TV programme for disabled be seen nationally?' It was about a television series called 'Link,' thought to be

the only programme in the world at that time specifically for disabled people, being shown only in the Midlands.

'What has Birmingham got that the rest of the country hasn't?' demanded Spastics News, urging interested viewers to contact Lady Plowden, Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and ask for 'Link' to be networked.

Now our campaign has borne fruit and from Sunday, September 5, disabled people throughout the country will have a chance to see 'Link.' While ATV in Birmingham continues its monthly transmission of the present series, the other regions (except Granada) will catch up by showing 'Link' once a week. Then from the start of next year, other regions will fall into line with ATV and transmit 'Link' at monthly intervals.

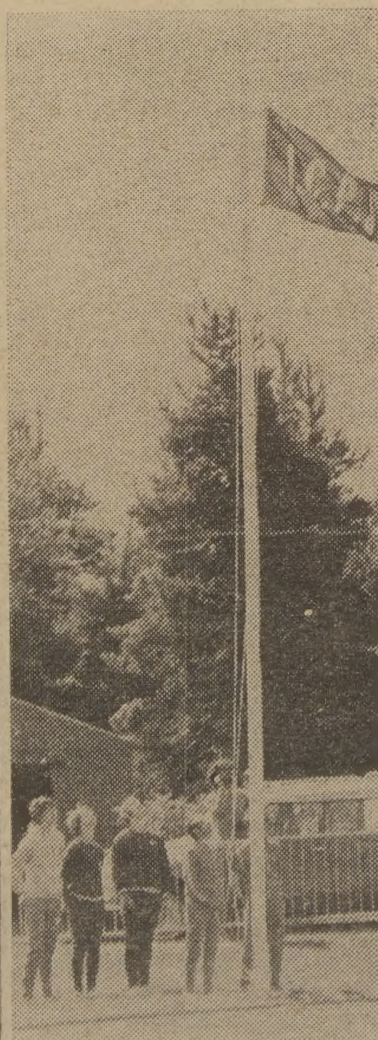
It is the first continuous series for disabled people and it deals with all types of handicap — physical and mental, deafness and blindness, old and young people. Most other programmes have tended to concentrate on one particular type of handicap. 'Link' is not an educational programme and has been described as: 'Part "World in Action," part "Open Door" and part discussion, aimed at raising awareness.'

BBC starts new series too...

A NEW series of programmes for disabled people is to start on BBC-TV in October. Topics to be covered will include attitudes of the general public, access to buildings, mobility, education, employment, housing, aids and gadgets, leisure and holidays, family problems, entitlements to money and care, the role of voluntary organisations and integration.

The series, called 'Contact,' will be screened on Sundays from 12.35 to 1 pm on BBC. It will last for 10 weeks from October 10

The Olympics touch



JUST like the Olympics—the ICPS flag is hauled aloft at the start of the International Spastics Games in France, by representatives of the French and British teams.

Society to save £30,000 a year from rates law

ROYAL Assent was given to a Bill in August which will save The Spastics Society at least £30,000 a year in rates. This follows two years of campaigning by leading national charities, led by Oxfam.

All charity shops will now be eligible for 50 per cent mandatory rating relief and up to a further 50 per cent at the discretion of local authorities.

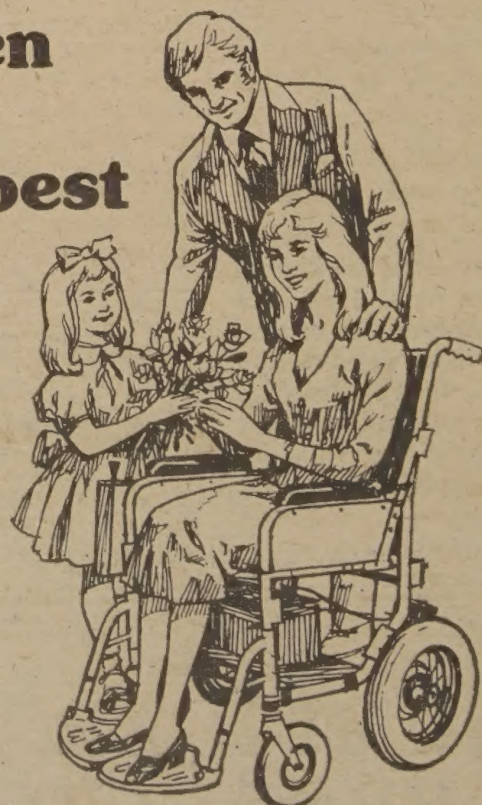
Said John Tough, the Society's Head of Marketing, who is responsible for 105 spastics shops all over the country:

'This will have a significant effect on the profits made by our shops. It will save us £30,000 a year and possibly more, depending on the generosity of individual councils.'

Show business

LITTLE Christine Beckinsale, of Maidstone, Kent, put on a concert with some friends during the school holidays. All their friends and neighbours came to watch and they raised 70 pence. The money was presented to the local spastics shop.

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Will outspoken new book on sexual needs of disabled

UNTIL recently there was a widespread assumption that sexual feelings did not, or at least ought not, to exist for the severely disabled. Parents, teachers and care staff, while giving every attention to the material and spiritual well-being of their charges, were often unable to face the idea of their sexual needs. As a result, handicapped children would grow up in appalling ignorance and confusion about changes in their bodies and the

strange new emotions associated with them.

Because adults would not discuss the subject and the inability to mix freely with other children, a handicapped adolescent could grow up with the idea that this was something shameful, happening only to himself. Thus his self-image as something unpleasantly 'different' would be reinforced.

Nowadays, there is a much more open discussion of sexual matters and the right of each individual to come to terms with his or her sexuality is widely acknowledged. This more enlightened attitude is gradually extending to the

shock older readers?

severely disabled. 'Entitled to Love,' by Wendy Greengross, well known as a panellist on the radio programme, 'If You Think You've Got Problems,' expresses views which would have been unthinkable a decade ago, and many older members of the caring professions may find them unacceptable even now.

Dr Greengross points out that many able-bodied people react in an antagonistic way because they feel somehow threatened by the handicapped. She gives the example of a severely disabled man whose

marriage to an able-bodied woman arouses fierce resentment in some male acquaintances, because it raises the question, 'Could I keep my wife's loyalty if I was like that?'

In the same way, perhaps the middle-aged matron of a residential centre may be shocked to discover that two of her residents are having a love affair, and her sense of disgust will be aggravated by stress in her own marriage.

A part from discussing society's attitudes to sex and the handicapped and those of

the disabled people themselves, Dr Greengross gives much practical advice on sex education and contraception. She also examines the emotional needs of the mentally handicapped and ventures into such controversial areas as pornography, sexual aids and surrogate partners for those unable to form a satisfactory loving relationship.

'Entitled to Love' by Wendy Greengross is published by Malaby Press in association with the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases. It is available from NFRCD, Vincent House, 1 Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex. Price £1.95.

First spastic to win coveted medal



MR Jack Foster, pictured right, receives the Scout Medal of Merit from Mr Gordon Bates, Scouts' County Commissioner for Surrey. Mr Foster, 59, a spastic living at the West Surrey Cheshire Home, Godalming, has been involved with the Scout movement since 1924 when he helped run a hospital troop in Bristol.

He belongs to the BP guild, an association of former Scouts dedicated to voluntary work and fund raising.

He has lived at Hydon Hill since April 1963, and works hard at the annual fete and other fund-raising activities at the centre. Mr Foster is believed to be the first spastic to win the coveted Medal of Merit.

Picture by courtesy of Surrey Advertiser.

£2,400 success at Edinburgh

THE fete held in the grounds of Westerlea School for Spastics, Edinburgh, in aid of the new Trinity Centre, raised almost £2,400. This included a contribution from the display of Scottish dancing given by the Edinburgh Highland Reel and Strathspey Society at the school the following day. The total is about £200 higher than last year.

A further sum in the region of £200 was raised for Westerlea School itself by a discotheque in the fete marquee.

Coffee and cash

PUPILS of Stockton Heath Secondary School near Warrington, Lancashire, have presented £168 to the Society's Daresbury Hall Centre—the proceeds of a coffee morning held at the school.

Don't be a Scrooge - make it a charitable Christmas

EVERY year it's the same old moan about the cost of Christmas, with a particular grouse about cards. But come December, goodwill triumphs over Scrooge and we are buying as usual.

However, it helps us to spend more cheerfully if the money we hand over is also going to a good cause, which is a very good reason for buying Spastics Cards, because all the profits go to help some of the country's most heavily handicapped people.

And this year, as usual, there are some first-rate bargains in the range. For example, there's the Lantern Box set of 24 cards at 72p, with a selection of modern and traditional designs. In the Popular Varieties there's the Christmas Fun Pack at only 40p for 12 cards. Coaching Scenes depicting the country in winter at 40p for 12 cards, and colourful Candle Design cards at 54p for 12 cards. Snowy Christmas scenes come at 54p for 12 cards and Christmas Cut-Outs of French design are priced at only 35p for six.

If you are opulent enough not to worry about cost—the Fine Art cards are a must. They are of excellent quality and exceptional value. The larger ones cost 18p each and include reproductions of Winter Landscapes, London Views, and the Nativity, while smaller versions sell at 50p for a pack of five.

Christmas decorations are available at very reasonable

prices, too. You can buy a silver table tree, with tripod stand and 12 decorations at only £1.40 (untarnishable and fire-resistant), 12 assorted coloured paper hats at 35p, a pack of two silver angels at 40p, or a set of 20 Christmas tree lights, with frosted coloured bulbs, at only £3.

Christmas wrapping paper comes cheap, too, with the Big Value Wrap at 35p containing six sheets of wrapping paper, 32 seals and 18 tags. Or if you want some really super gift wrapping, try the Christmas Connoisseur pack at 39p for six sheets.

There are a host of good Christmas present ideas, too, all reasonably priced. How about a Wild Animals multi-puzzle to share among the children? It contains four

puzzles, each with 25 large pieces, and is only 95p. There's a double-sided World-Circular jig-saw puzzle, too, with 300 pieces at only 80p.

A flowering Preserving Kit, with special crystals to keep the original state of flowers and grasses, comes at £2.45; a Kojak Detective Game at £2.40; a Pull-Along Wagon of bricks at £1.40; and for needle enthusiasts there's a Picture-Wool Tapestry Set with frame, tapestry, wool and needle at £1.20.

You can even satisfy the needs of the family cat with a furry mouse at 45p!

A colourful catalogue of all the merchandise is available from Spastics Cards Ltd, The Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks SL0 9HW, together with an order form.

Long-service gift from York group



MR L. P. DAY, retiring after 12 years as chairman of York and District Spastics Group, is presented with a gold pen by Mrs Doris Simpson, present chairman. Mr Day, who has given the group 24 years' continuous voluntary service, is now chairman of the Society's North East Regional Co-ordinating committee.

Picture by courtesy of Yorkshire Gazette and Herald.



Throw out polythene aids funds

MRS Sheila Jones, of Shoreham, Sussex, has discovered that the materials other people throw out can be a lucrative charity fundraiser. The most profitable commodity is no longer old newspapers but polythene waste, and Mrs Jones tours her local shopkeepers every week to collect discarded polythene.

Mrs Jones, whose three-year-old son Mark is both spastic and epileptic, sells the scrap material for £1 a hundredweight. The money goes towards a swimming pool for mentally handicapped children at the Highdown School, Worthing.

Now she is hoping to borrow a pedometer so that she can measure how many miles she walks with her truck and thus get people to sponsor her efforts.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Argus, Brighton.

For fisherfolk

NORTHUMBRIAN Water Authority is providing facilities for disabled anglers at the two reservoirs in its area, Sealing Dam and Lockwood Beck. Anglers can fish from the banks of the reservoirs and the bailiff-warden, Mr Harry Collinson, has a special seat which can be used in a boat.

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Britain triumphs at International Games



COLONEL Crespín, President de l'Association Lozerienne de Lutte contre les Fléaux Sociaux, opening the Games at Montrodad.

Medals galore for our athletes

THE BRITISH team scored a resounding triumph at the International Spastics Games at Montrodad. Our 51 athletes carried home from France an impressive array of 163 medals and three challenge cups out of the total 395 awards presented.

The games were held at a centre for the physically handicapped, high up in



AN Olympic-style medal presentation by Lief Sorensen, of Denmark.

the French Alps between Lyons and Marseilles. In the words of one of the competitors: 'It was like a mini-Olympic village with its own racing track, swimming pool, gymnasium and football pitch.'

The four-day event was organised by the International Cerebral Palsy Association, and teams from France, West Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and Yugoslavia took part. Italy, too, was represented—by one competitor, Carlos Salvator, a former pupil of The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School.

Up against stiff competition from 249 other handicapped people, the British contingent between them won 67 gold medals, 52 silver and 44 bronze. Only seven Britons failed to win medals. Our team was also presented with challenge cups for football, wheelchair relay (male) and wheelchair relay (female).

Some competitors felt that they could have earned even more honours for Britain if they had not been disqualified from entering certain events. This happened because the French have a different system of classifying spastic athletes from that used in Britain. Peter Dixon, of Manchester, for example, was told he was 'too fit' to compete in the 80 metre and 200 metre sprints, while for Ann Trotman, of Bristol, it was the opposite. She was considered "too disabled" to take part in discus and javelin events, although she had won medals for both in Spastics Games held in Britain.

Commented Robert Bebbington, who led the British football team to victory as well as winning several medals, 'I couldn't understand how people so differently disabled could be put in the same group.'

However, nobody staged a walk-out (or wheel-out) over the issue. National self-esteem was high and the disqualifications made the British athletes all the more determined to win the events which were open to them.

Said Mr A. T. S. Edwards, the Society's Physical Education Adviser, 'We are really proud of the success of the British team.'

football. Silver for run relay. Bronze for high jump. Stephen Roe, Manchester Road, Tyldesley. Gold medal for long jump and club. Silver for discus. Anthony Griffin, Ribblesdale Rise, Bolton. Gold medal for 25 metre swim and football. Bronze for 50 metre swim and rifle shooting. Robert Bebbington, YMCA Hostel, Manchester. Gold medal for football. Silver for table tennis, precision javelin and discus. Bronze

Cont on Page 10



ABOVE: Carrying the flag in the march past at the start of the Games were (left) Geoffrey Lord, of Birmingham, and Simon Kanner, from Scotland.

LEFT: Robert Bebbington, of Manchester, takes part in the shot-put event for which he won a bronze medal.

BELOW: British team members Anne Wiltshire, left, and Audrey Lovegrove, both from Nottinghamshire. Anne won gold medals for the precision javelin, light shot, light ball and cricket ball, and a bronze medal in the club event. Audrey won a gold medal for the 60 metre run.



STEPHEN Roe, of Manchester, who won the first gold medal of the Games. He scored gold in the long jump and club, and silver for the discus.



FIRST aid is rushed to a casualty during the seven-a-side football cup final between Britain and France. Fortunately his injuries were not serious and Britain went on to win the match by six goals to three. This result won a challenge cup for the British side and a gold medal for its captain, Bob Bebbington.

CHILTERN HOUSE FHU, OXFORD
THE above unit has short stay vacancies for male and female residents from 14 years upwards from 27th September onwards (excluding Christmas period) at the reduced rate of £3.50 per day. Maximum stay six weeks. Further information from the matron—Mrs V. T. Philp, Chiltern House Family Help Unit, Hilltop Road, Oxford. Tel Oxford 46641.

News about the Spastics Pool

Minis are the big incentive

FOUR Minis, taxed and ready for the road, are offered as principal prizes in the new competition featured on the Spastics Pool weekly bulletin. With a top prize of a holiday for two in Barbadoes this is proving to be a most popular competition for supporters.

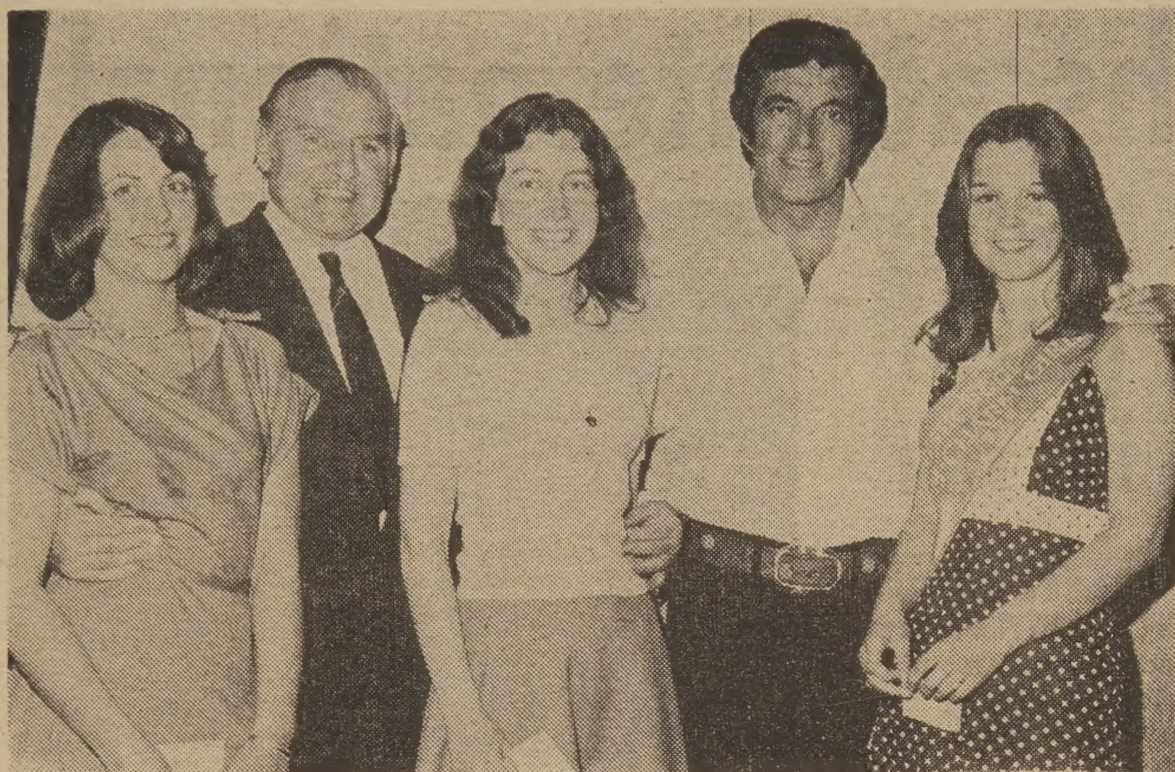
'We shall be offering five Minis in the next competition,' commented John Gardiner, dividends executive. 'And I am positive that these excellent cars will encourage even greater response from our membership to the additional competitions.'

New member of the board

MR Ken Pole has been appointed to the board of Top Ten Promotions Ltd with special responsibility for the newly formed Supply Department. This department has been introduced following Goodprint Supplies Ltd ceasing to trade.

Mr Pole has been closely associated with the Gift Scheme since its inception in 1960, and was at that time buyer and production manager for Goodprint. He was appointed to the Goodprint board in April 1966, and subsequently became general manager. From 1960 to July, 1976, almost 25 million members and collectors' gifts have been despatched.

Married with two sons, Mr Pole lives in the Ashton area of Bristol and takes a keen interest in local charities.



Charmer from the Isle of Man

JULIE KINRADE, of Westbourne Road, Ramsey, was first in the recent Isle of Man Spastics Pool Charm Girl Competition featured on the weekly bulletin. Julie received her cheque and winner's sash from Peter Kneale of Manx Radio during the interval at the Frankie Vaughan Show at the

Villa Marina, Douglas.

'The competition attracted a great deal of attention on the island,' commented area representative, Laurie Watterson. 'All the publicity is helping us with our fund raising activities for handicapped children's Christmas party, and hopefully will swell our 1977 holiday

fund.'

Picture shows Frankie Vaughan with Julie Kinrade, right, at the Villa Marina, when she received the winners sash and cheque for £50. Also in the picture are the runner-up, Ann Ellwood, and third, Gillian Hinds, along with Alderman Ernest Ackary.

'Don't let holiday homes lie empty in winter'

SHOULD local voluntary groups let their holiday bungalows remain empty during the winter when the last handicapped visitors have gone home? Mike Venables, the Society's senior regional officer for the Midlands thinks not and has appealed in his regular group newsletter for the bungalows to be used throughout the year.

He writes: "During the summer season most groups with holiday bungalows find they are fully occupied, and indeed there is often a waiting list, but once the holiday season is over a number of bungalows lie empty and unused. Provided the accommodation is suitable for use during the winter — fires are available, etc, there is no reason why such accommodation should not be made available, not only for use by your own families, but by families

from other handicapped organisations. Indeed this would do a great deal to bring the handicapped together to help with common problems.

If your bungalow is going to lie empty from November to March, why not encourage families to use it? It is suggested you let your local social services department know that the accommodation will be available, and it is probable that they will be very pleased to pay, and to accept full responsibility for those whom they send to the bungalow.

You will doubtless be aware from recent news items there are millions of people, particularly those who are handicapped who have never had a holiday in their lives, and your group could do much to relieve family stress and bring about closer co-operation between various handicapped organisations in your area.

Help 'put out more flags' in the City

WANTED urgently — 500 volunteers with warm hearts, sturdy feet and encouraging smiles—to 'put out more flags' to help The Spastics Society's annual City of London flag day, on Tuesday, September 14.

Anyone who has two hours or more to spare in the city from 8 am onwards on that day should contact Mr David Saint at the Society's Regional Office (tel 549 5988).

There are 100,000 spastics in England and Wales, and many of the severely disabled people cared for by The Spastics Society are totally immobilised, unable to move more than one toe or one finger.

That's why the Society is asking for volunteers to put their best foot forward on City flag day.

News in brief... news in brief... news in brief...

A 'MOTHER and baby' pram race held by draymen from a Halifax brewery has raised £400 for Halifax Spastics Society. The money was spent on a motorised wheelchair.

THE National Council for Special Education is holding a one-day conference on 'The Language and Communication of Handicapped Children.' This will take place at the Ethel Cox Hall, London College of Fashion, John Princes Street, London W1, on Saturday, October 2, starting at 10 am.

The programme is expected

to include contributions on developments in the education of ESN, autistic, physically handicapped, and hearing and speech impaired children.

Further details from: The Secretary, Greater London Branch, National Council for Special Education, 26 Southwood Lawn Road, London N6 5SF.

PUPILS of the Lyme School, Newcastle-under-Lyme, raised £212 for the North Staffordshire Spastics Association with a sponsored run.

ON Sunday, September 12, at 6.50 pm on BBC1, actor John Alderton will broadcast an appeal on behalf of The Toy Libraries Association.

THANKS to the help of extra volunteers, Bradford and District Spastics Society managed to raise a record £527 at their flag day.

THE £300 proceeds of a pram race held by teams from rival pubs at Bawtry, Yorkshire, have been presented to the Doncaster and District Spastics Society.

'Unjustified fears' about trikes — so here are the facts

IN order to dispel unjustified fears which have been expressed by disabled drivers of invalid tricycles, Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has sent the following letter to Mr Peter Large, of the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled, and Mr George Wilson, of the Central Council for the Disabled:

"Alf Morris sent you a copy of my announcement, on July 23, of the decision to phase out the invalid tricycle. Since then many disabled drivers have expressed to me fears that their trikes are about to be withdrawn, and that they may lose their jobs and their independence. I am sure you must have had many similar inquiries and I would be grateful for your help in dispelling unjustified fears of this kind.

'The following points may help to clarify the position.

- We are not withdrawing tricycles now in service from those who want to keep them.
- We expect to keep the tricycle fleet for at least five years and possibly a good deal longer.
- Present orders for new trikes will be fulfilled and there will be a further order in 1977. Most of these new trikes will be available as replacements for existing users whose trikes wear out.
- We will continue, and improve, maintenance arrangements.
- When the trike fleet is approaching the end of its life we will see what alternative invalid vehicles and electrically powered wheelchairs are available on home and world markets.
- The rate of mobility allowance is to be reviewed in November 1977, when we will aim to restore and, if possible, improve its value in real terms.
- People registered as disabled with the Employment Service Agency, who are unable to use public transport and need a car or taxi to get to work, may be

eligible for financial help from the agency. They can apply for this if they no longer have a trike.

- Disabled people who were given a trike or private car allowance for the particular purpose of getting to work will not in future lose those rights if they lose their jobs. From now on they can keep their trikes as long as supplies are available. When we have brought in the necessary legislation they will be able to switch to mobility allowance even if they are not eligible under the present rules.

'I appreciate that individuals will raise many questions which cannot be completely answered by reference to my statement or to this letter, but DHSS officials will, of course, do everything they can to provide answers to these questions as they arise. Printed information will be made available in good time.

'As Alf Morris said in his letter we would be grateful for your help in pinpointing the questions which individual disabled people are likely to want answered, and my officials will be keeping in close touch with you on this.'

Clocking up cash

WORTHING, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society raised a total of nearly £484 in just over two hours, at a garden party in the grounds of Broadwater Manor House School.

Jewellery, toys and wrought ironware made by spastic employees of the local work centre were on sale and cub scouts gave a display of gymnastics.

Mr Mayor walked for spastics



EVERY year the mayors of the London boroughs have a sponsored walk, donating the results to local charities nominated by themselves.

This year, the Mayor of Sutton, Councillor Roger Slater, who has just become vice-president of the Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society, nominated the Society as one of his four local beneficiaries.

The Mayor clocked up a splendid 20 miles, and, as

a result, the Society received a cheque for £260 as their share of the sponsored total.

Picture shows: Donald Funge-Smith, chairman of the Croydon group (extreme left) displays his cheque along with other local charity representatives. Centre is the Mayor of Sutton, who raised the money in a sponsored walk.

Photo by courtesy Surrey and South London Newspapers.

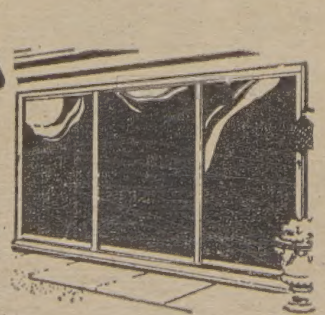
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Stars open London home

THE Stars Organisation for Spastics opens its third project, Good Neighbours House at Camberwell, South London, on September 1.

Sheila Rawstone, Chief Executive of SOS, explained: 'We started work over two years ago when we realised the waiting list that existed for our adult residential centre at Wakes Hall, in Essex. We've named it after Top Ten Promotions Good Neighbours Trust as the Trust gave a substantial donation towards the £300,000 the house has cost. There will be room for 26 adults and there will be accommodation, too, for young couples who are either married, or planning to marry. The new Manager, Mr Geoffrey Morley, is already there to welcome the residents who will come from all over the country.'

'We chose South London because quite a few residential centres are in the country and we thought some spastics would like to live in the city, especially if they were born in London. The house is part of an integrated development programme being built by the Southwark Housing Authority to house the elderly, young marrieds and couples with large families.'

Already the Mayor of Southwark and local councillors plan to spend an informal evening at the house in late September but the all-star gala official opening will be held next year.

The SOS also runs a holiday centre, Colwall Court, at Bexhill, Sussex.

Mayor tests the stock at new toy library

THE Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Peter Clark, took a ride on a toy tractor when he opened a new toy library for the disabled. This is a joint project by the Rugby and District Spastics Society and the Social Services Department.

Also in the picture, left to right, are Mrs Clark, the Mayoress, Councillor Pru Miller, chairman of Rugby Spastics Society, Mrs Trish Holmes, occupational therapist for the social services department and Mr Walter Bird, secretary of the spastics group.

Picture by courtesy of Rugby Advertiser.

LIZ COOK tells a story to touch your heart

Mother and son re-united after half century of loneliness

IN 1927 a young girl dressed the baby she had nursed for three months in his best clothes and carried him to the Foundling Home. They took him from her, handed her £1 to cover expenses and sent her on her way.

Now, nearly half a century later, Mrs Eileen Woolfrey, 71, the tea-lady at The Spastics Society's Portland Place offices, can still remember that moment. 'It broke my heart and I was ill with grief for months. The baby's father was the true love of my life but my parents didn't like him and refused to let us marry. Instead they ruined my life.'

'I'd had a very bad time and when the doctor who delivered the baby asked me what I was going to call him I said: "I don't know." He said call him after me — Geoffrey — so I did and gave him my maiden name Twomey. I had another suitor whom I didn't like but he kept pestering my parents so they forced me to marry him because it was the time of the depression and there were no jobs about.'

'A hell'
'It was dreadful — he made my life such a hell that eventually my parents realised their mistake and we got divorced. I stayed on my own until 1953 when I met Bert Woolfrey and we were very happy together till his death in 1970. We were both cleaners at the Society's office but after his death it was too much for me so I became the tea-lady instead.'

Eileen's life once again became very lonely. 'I'd go back to my flat in Hammersmith and all you can see from the window is a blank brick wall.'

Before her re-marriage she had joined a newspaper scheme which asked people to write to lonely children and at Christmas and birthdays send them presents.

'I wrote to a boy in Lincolnshire who was in the same position as the son I'd had to give up but I was never allowed to meet him or take him on holidays and the last I heard of him was that he had gone to Australia.'

And all the time she grieved for her own son. 'In the early days I'd go up to the Home and ask about him but all they'd say was that he was alright.'

Then a few weeks ago Eileen's life changed dramatically. Waiting for her at home after she had finished work was a letter on headed notepaper from the Foundling Home that had become the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children.

'Shaking'
It read: 'Dear Mrs Woolfrey, No doubt your friend on the corner told you that I called to see you today but, unfortunately missed you. In 1927 you came to the Foundling Hospital over a matter and I wonder whether I could call to see you and discuss this.'

I went to my friend on the corner and she said: "Why, Eileen whatever is the matter?"

You look dreadful!" I was absolutely shaking. I just couldn't imagine what it was all about. I was ill with worry. I just went to pieces.' But she did contact the welfare officer, Miss F. Wainwright, who had left the letter and on June 26 went to Miss Wainwright's office.

In the office as she walked in was a man, nearing 50, with bright blue eyes and a strong face. 'I just blurted out: "How long are you stopping?" I just couldn't describe how I felt. For my son to find me after all these years — well it was just the greatest day of our lives. He came back to my flat and we just couldn't stop talking.'

Sad story

The story her son had to tell her was as sad and poignant in many ways as her own. 'When they took me in they discarded the name my mother gave and went through the telephone book — I was renamed Herbert Bunt — a dreadful name. Those days were unbelievably awful — so cruel that I can't bear to think of them.'

'The Home boarded babies out — not into proper foster families but just placed them in with a family until they were five. I was sent back into the Home when I was five and never left it except once a year to go to a camp in Folkestone for the summer. Then when I was 14 years and eight months I was on a train with the King's shilling in my pocket and stayed in the Army for 10½ years until I was invalided out. I served in Italy, Germany and the Far East and was in Malaya for three years until I contracted TB and spent six months in hospital. In all those years in the Army I only received a letter twice. It's unimaginable what it's like not to have a family. You go into hospital for something and they ask: "Is it in the family?" and you have to say: "I don't know."

Wedding

'I met Ivy, my wife, and when we got married, although the guests spread themselves about there was no one from my side. When it comes to filling in forms for jobs, especially ones abroad they want details of your background and you just can't give any so in the end you just stop applying for those sort of jobs.'

Herbert is now a contract manager for a construction company living at Golden Green, near Tonbridge, in Kent, and quite by coincidence was involved in the building of the Society's Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge.

But it was back in 1947 that he started searching for his mother — 'It is just a natural instinct that drives you on.' There were to be many, many disappointments. He wrote to the Foundling Home but the information sent back was inaccurate. 'Somerset House told me I'd have to get a court order to search for my birth certificate and a solicitor told me that that would start off costing £400. So it went on, and then, three years ago, I started trying again. I'd got a daughter Lesley and a son Gary. We were surrounded by Ivy's family but there was none of my own, it just felt so incomplete.'

This time Herbert was out



HAPPINESS is a mother and son re-united after almost half a century — Mrs Eileen Woolfrey and her son Herbert.

Picture by courtesy of Kent Messenger.

in touch with Miss Wainwright.

'She went to work to trace Mum and almost gave up until she said something just clicked. She's told me since that sometimes she has succeeded in tracing mothers for their children and it just hasn't worked — the mothers have refused to meet their children. It almost seems as if the easier they've been to trace the less successful the outcome is. But she said this was one of the best.'

New life

Now life has changed for Eileen in a way she could never have thought possible. Her son rings her twice a week and the first time she went to Kent to meet the rest of the family, the whole village turned out to make her welcome. 'They're all wonderful, wonderful people, so warm and friendly offering me a bed if I should ever need one.' Her granddaughter, Lesley, is now 23 and a hairdresser, while 19-year-old Gary is a pop music addict and works at his father's firm.

'It's just such a shame this didn't all happen years ago in 1947. If the Home hadn't changed his name and misled him when he first wrote, I would have been so easy to find. We could have all been a family so much earlier. You know, in a way I almost wish it hadn't happened — they're all so wonderful — yet I worry in case I should put a foot wrong and if anything happened now, I would be finished.' Eileen confessed.

Her son looked across at her and with a loving smile gently chided her: 'Oh, Mum!'

Friends aid Chiltern House

CHILTERN House, the Society's newest Family Help Unit in Oxford, now has a new hoist thanks to a variety of good friends and neighbours. For among the donations were £100 from Mr Bayliss, of Hill-top Road, Oxford, £50



from the students of Rycotewood College, Thame, and £50 from Mary Hare Grammar School for deaf children, Newbury.

Our picture shows the Matron, Mrs V. T. Philp, receiving the cheque from pupils at the school.

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DARREN BIGNELL and Martin Evans examining a catch from the pond.

LEFT: Dr Michael Cotton, warden of the Society's Churchtown Farm centre, tells the group about natural life on the seashore.



WHAT have we got here? Mary, from Lanlivery, identifying flora and fauna.

Not just a holiday — perhaps a blueprint for help to young people

by Margaret Morgan

THE day after the visit of the Duchess of Kent to the Churchtown Farm Field Study Centre, Llanlivery, another special group arrived — though this is probably the normal pattern for the staff of the centre, as every group is special in one way or another. Our group, however, was different. It consisted of 17 boys and girls with cerebral palsy from all over the country, together with five members of The Spastics Society's staff.

What made it a special group, starting on a special week's adventure holiday, was that nearly all the boys and girls are attending schools with unhandicapped children and all have spent most of their school life in 'non-special' schools. For many of these young people this was the first time that they had ever met and made friends with boys and girls with handicaps like their own, and for once they did not have to lag behind or be excluded from the more active and adventurous pursuits.

What made it a new venture, too, was the

additional programme of evening group activities which were planned to help the boys and girls to think and talk about other people — their families, friends, teachers, and about themselves as well. They also looked at and discussed the different ways in which people live, with their varied values, priorities, and ways of coping with problems.

The group

Who were these 17 boys and girls? David and Peter were the youngest and they were just 13. Sylvia and Martin were the oldest and they will be 16 later this year. James, Julie and Sarah were very tall for their age while Karen, Jayne and John were still very small and this variation in development, quite apart from their physical handicap, can cause added problems and embarrassment. They came from Lancashire and Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Shropshire, South Wales and South East England.

Most of them go to large comprehensive or secondary modern schools, though a few are now at special schools having been in local primary schools when younger. During the week Darren was the

fisherman and a great authority on all sorts of subjects; Simon and Martin the rock climbers; Derek, Peter and David studied photography; Julia and Karen went horse-riding; Erica was nicknamed 'Margaret Thatcher' because she was so knowledgeable and persuasive in discussion; Jayne proved to be the most observant; Barry and Ian always helped with the evening drinks; Julie was an enthusiastic and ardent swimmer; and James was everywhere!

In addition to the Llanlivery staff who organised the day time outings and activities and got to know the young people, the other staff involved were myself and Gillian Carlile, regional social worker for Yorkshire, Jacqueline Paulson, careers officer for South Wales, and Alastair Kidd, social worker with the residential units, and Alison Todd, secretary to the personnel officer, schools and centres.

Outings

The daytime programme was full of interest and variety. It included visits to Tolgus Tin Works, the China Clay area, Charlestown harbour and the Norman Castle at Restormel, as well as trips to Fowey, Polruan and Mevagissey, and to Par, Perranporth and Spit beaches. Two days were spent catching pond and shore animals and later examining them under microscopes. The Centre's Warden, Dr Michael Cotton, brought all this alive for us by giving two fascinating illustrated talks on fresh and sea water flora and fauna.

Small groups opted to go horse riding, rock climbing and fishing (though rumour has it that two of the fishermen were seasick!) and a small group worked in the darkroom developing and printing the film that I had taken, some prints of which illustrate this

article. Swimming was on the agenda every evening and the pool was very popular with everyone.

And what about the special group activities in the evenings? These included games designed to help us to think about other people and to find ways of describing them; various activities to encourage us to look at and express our own likes and dislikes about different topics, for instance school, holidays, parties, friends, brothers and sisters, home. One evening Alastair showed us slides and gave us a very interesting talk on the different ways in which people live and what is important to them. The discussion that followed was very lively, and gave opportunities to the budding politicians in the group to get on their soap-boxes. Another evening we did role playing and most boys and girls were surprised at how well they could put themselves into a familiar situation and act the part of someone else, for instance as the father in a family argument or as an employer holding an interview

for a job. On the last evening the young people, under Alastair's guidance, organised a very successful discotheque and party.

But the thought and hard work that the boys and girls put into the small group discussions may well have far reaching effects and influence on The Spastics Society's future planning of services for this age group. Summaries of the discussion groups are being drawn up and it is hoped that these will be read and discussed by the Society's committee and staff. The four groups all worked hard for two hours and a great deal of ground was covered on a variety of aspects of life.

For parents

One group looked at topics for inclusion in a leaflet for parents of handicapped adolescents, and discussed what they felt that parents should know about their age group. Another discussed schools and

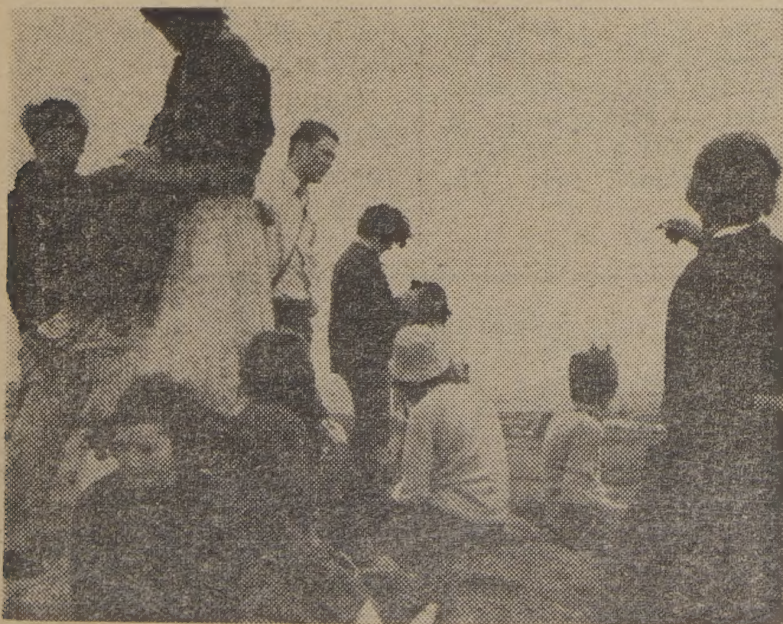
educational and leisure facilities. Two smaller groups looked at family and personal relationships, individual adjustments, and the different ways of coping with problems. These boys and girls had views and plenty to say, and were realistic and practical.

The majority would like to remain in ordinary schools, though most of them felt that they needed extra help with one or other aspect of their education. They appreciated why people did things for them but they wished that they could be given a bit more time so that they could do things for themselves. They got on with their brothers and sisters most of the time but like nearly all young people often felt jealous, envious and misunderstood. The older ones were worried about what sort of jobs they would get when they left school and the younger ones were concerned about CSE's and GCE's.

Challenge

No doubt everyone will have gone home with a particular memory of what they did during the week. Many will have learnt new facts, most will have made new friends and some will have been challenged to think more deeply about people and the complex web of personal relationships. The staff, too, feel they have learnt a lot, not only about what raw tin ore looks like, and why hermit crabs live in shells, but more about the mixed feelings and special problems that often face boys and girls like those in this group and also, perhaps, about some of the ways in which we may be able to help them.

MISS Margaret Morgan is the Society's Controller of Personal Services.



HAVING climbed a hill to the Tors, Keith from Lanlivery describes the area.



PART of the group at Churchtown Farm with Alison on the extreme right, and Miss Morgan at the back.

Must they go away to school?

SHOULD handicapped children be educated in ordinary local schools in an effort to integrate with the community from the beginning, or must they go to special boarding schools with their unique facilities to help overcome their disabilities?

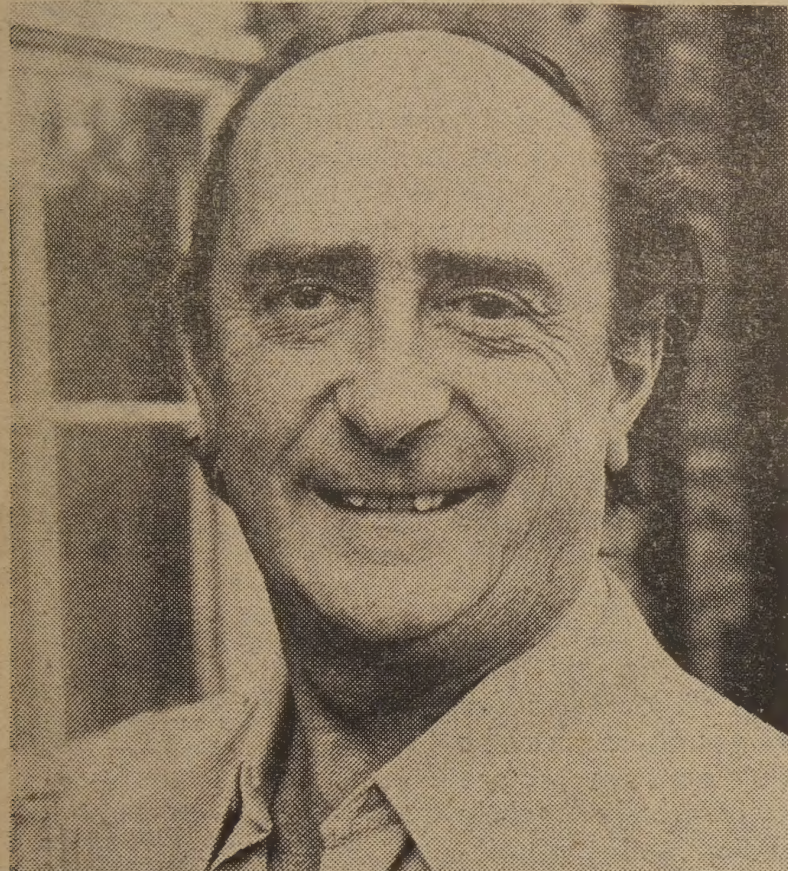
Will the handicapped child always be the 'odd one out' in an ordinary school, sadly realising that he is 'different' and unable to keep up with his classmates? Will the special boarding school over-protect him, give him an unrealistic view of his capabilities so that he is unable to come to terms with the outside world when he leaves the sheltered environment? Most of

all, does he feel that he has been 'sent away' from home because he is handicapped?

Important questions with no easy answers, but questions of deep concern to parents and teachers. Today Spastics News probes the special boarding versus ordinary day school argument, with three articles from people uniquely qualified to enter the controversial arena. The psychiatrist agrees that some children benefit enormously from the intensive education and training in a special boarding school, but worries about the others who feel rejected—and their parents who feel guilty. The ex-schoolboy is convinced that the special school leaves young people unprepared for the 'nasty shock' of the adult world. The education

expert says the decision must be made in the light of the child's needs.

Strong views have been expressed in Parliament, too. Mr Jack Ashley, chairman of the All-Party Disablement Group of MP's, received support from both sides of the Commons when he made a plea for handicapped children to be taught in ordinary schools wherever possible. He argued that it was quite wrong that disabled people should be forced to mix only with others similarly disabled, and said handicapped children should only go to special schools when normal schooling was definitely impractical. He was assured by a spokeswoman that the Department of Education and Science was examining the possibility of setting up a pilot scheme towards integrated education.



DR Donald Gough, the Society's Consultant Psychiatrist.

Young children are happiest in their own homes

THERE are often compelling reasons why boarding school education is the best choice of schooling for an individual child. For such reasons The Spastics Society has provided special educational and psychological provisions for the handicapped child whose needs have not been met locally, and has created a number of boarding schools which meet an essential need.

I believe, however, from my studies of child de-

velopment and my clinical experiences with children and adults, that young children are more happily raised within their own homes and that difficulties can occur if the normal pattern of our culture — a child living at home attending a day school — has to be altered.

I am aware that it has long been normal for a proportion of the population to send their children to Public schools as boarders. Children from such families will have less difficulty

in accepting boarding school because it is a family tradition and because any brothers or sisters will also board at school. Such children will not run the risk of fearing that they have been sent away and segregated because they are handicapped.

My belief is that in order to prevent such difficulties occurring, we should all continue in our efforts to force central and local government to make better local provisions for the handicapped child — educationally, socially and in housing accommodation. Where school boarding is necessary,

the Society should continue to do its utmost to minimise the possibility of upset for the child and the family. Understanding discussions before placement and assurance of the maximum of contact between home, child and school during the school years can do much to ease the difficulties.

It is possible for parents to feel guilty that they have 'sent their child away' and for a child to feel resentful 'that he has been sent away.' These feelings may persist for many years and if we are aware of such possibilities, we can do our best to prevent them.

Dr Donald Gough,

They must learn to cope with normal life 'outside'

EDUCATION is primarily about preparing children for the adult lives that they will have to lead after school. There would be a public outcry if any Government persisted in sending most children to schools that were not equipped to cater for the future needs of either their pupils or the country as a whole. However, when a similar situation occurs in the case of disabled children few people raise even a murmur.

The country — and indeed The Spastics Society — go to great lengths to provide special boarding schools to help handicapped children overcome

their 'enormous difficulties,' but as a result many handicapped children are isolated in what is really an artificial environment for their entire childhood. It is absolutely ludicrous to expect those children to deal adequately with normal adult life and work after such a beginning. Specialists, do-gooders and over-protective parents clamour for more specialised units to care for and to educate handicapped children—but in so doing they are sheltering those children from the outside world and, in many instances, hindering their development into well-adjusted adults.

Handicapped children are unlikely to develop normally until they are treated as normal children. Teachers and house-parents maintain that the children in special boarding schools are following nor-

mal educational practices, taking normal examinations and (occasionally!) meeting normal schoolchildren — but who are they kidding? What happens when the segregated child leaves school? That child is often surprised—even shattered—that his so-called normal education has failed to equip him for a job in a normal world or for day-to-day social integration with ordinary people.

The handicapped child has been cocooned in a little isolated world where everyone is handicapped. The moment he hits the outside world he could well be in for a nasty shock. His slurred speech is no longer so readily understood, his slow handwriting is often not tolerated. And yet, didn't his teacher tell him how good his speech was and how quickly he could write and type? But their standards are different from the outside world—they, after all, understand handicap.

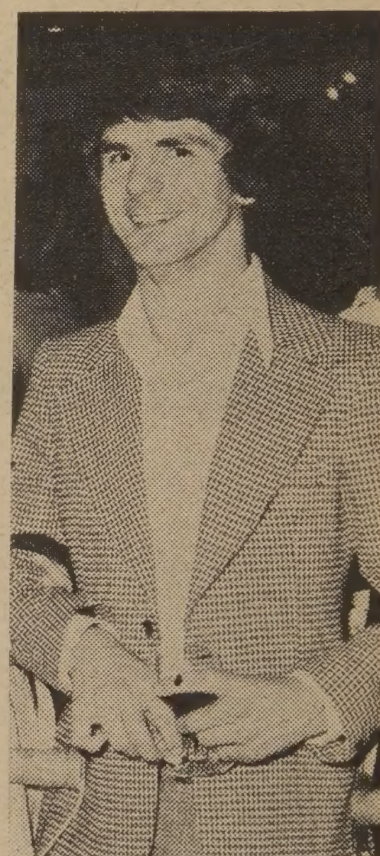
It's amazing how often slurred speech improves once

you really have to try hard to make yourself understood by strangers—but for 10 years in a special boarding school no one is a stranger to the problems of handicap. Ask any careers officer how many girls leave special boarding schools thinking they can be a secretary just because they can type with two fingers. That's not funny—it's deadly serious for the 16-year-old spastic girl who has been misled and sheltered all her life. Her world collapses. And still we send children to special boarding schools in the belief that we are doing the best for them. Instead, we are ensuring that many handicapped children will need special care and attention all their lives. We are wasting a valuable human resource wantonly.

For their sake let's be realistic. Let's encourage integrated education from the outset. If the handicapped child is educated with normal kids early in

his life he will gain not only a more normal outlook and all that goes with it, but also he will be able to equate his own ability and potential more closely with reality. He will have the support of family life; he will learn new skills more quickly; he will be accepted by ordinary children more easily; he will learn to compete with them; he will be socially prepared to cope with stares and jibes as and when they come; and integration and job prospects in adult life will be greatly improved. In short, he will be educated for adult life in a normal world and not for adult life in some expensive-to-run, out-of-the-way institution. Can we afford to waste the potential?

Graham Burn



GRAHAM BURN went to a boarding school for the handicapped, and an ordinary school for non-handicapped children.

The decision depends on a child's needs

IDEALLY society should be able to cope with all its problems; the main stream of education should be competent to deal with situations deviating from the norm—but it is necessary to take a realistic look at our society and make our provisions accordingly. Any argument then which exists concerning the desirability of residential education should not be based upon hazardous generalisations but upon:

- The child's needs; and the recognition and assessment of these needs is an important prerequisite to any decision.
- The range of educational facilities avail-

able. This would involve examination of the school's ethos, building, staffing, curriculum and expertise in connection with handicap.

- Consideration of the family and community in which the child lives—the child may be part of a united family, from a broken home or in care.

With these considerations in mind, a team which includes parents, the medical profession, educationists, psychologists, social workers and administrators makes a recommendation. Thus the child's education is decided on a basis of facts and not on preconceived beliefs. And for some, a boarding school with its facilities for a 24-hour a day

concern with the pupils' physical, intellectual and social development will offer the most favourable opportunities for growth.

Initial placement problems are experienced by some parents and by some children both at day and residential school. To the child, the change from family life to one where it is necessary to adjust to the group and where there is an increase in the complexity of demands made on him, may bring problems of adjustment.

Nevertheless it is the experience of the Society's head teachers that such problems are short lived. The majority of pupils soon find security in an ordered programme of living. Efforts are made to keep maximum contact with the parents, and education is regarded as a shared responsibility between school and home.

The assessment of a child's strengths and weaknesses is a continuing process, and modifications in care, treatment and education are made in this light. Should it be decided that a child's requirements can be better met elsewhere, then changes of placement may be made, for no initial decision is considered final.

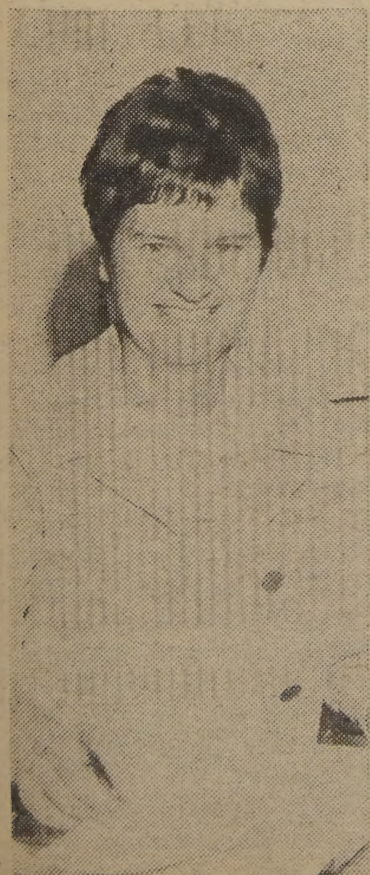
The ultimate test must be

the well being of the child, and I feel it is the variety of educational provision for the handicapped that enables the child to be placed in a school that suits him best.

Betty Adams,
Society Education
Officer

Boarding or day school—what do you think?

SPASTICS NEWS would like to hear your views on the important question of whether boarding or day schools are best for handicapped children. Please write to the Editor at The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1.



Betty Adams

Sometimes, a big firm can have a big heart too

RICKY GOLDING, 10, of Brackley, Bedfordshire, always had an ambition to own a go-kart. But because of a spastic disability he was unable to turn the pedals of a conventional model.

The Brackley branch of The Spastic Society wrote to the firm Tri-ang about the problem, and within two months the firm had come up with a solution, using parts from different models in their range. Not only did Tri-ang present Ricky with the specially designed go-kart, they also donated £150 to his special school in Sussex.

Ricky is pictured trying out his go-kart with (centre) Mrs Elizabeth Tyers, secretary of the Brackley branch of The Spastics Society.

Picture by courtesy of Banbury Guardian.



Come to the South East Conference

THE Society's South East Regional Conference will take place on September 26 at the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, starting at 10.15 am. Theme of the conference will be 'Help for the Handicapped Person at Home,' and speakers include Miss C. Jayne, of the Department of Health and Social Security, Miss M. R. Morgan, the Society's Controller of Personal Social Services, Mrs D. Clarke, West Sussex Group, Mr John Pritchard, of Top Ten Promotions, and Mr W. M. C. Hargreaves, the Society's Head of Recreational Services.

There will be an exhibition of aids and equipment, stalls of goods made by spastic people, and a display of spastics cards.

To facilitate catering arrangements, the South East Regional Office would like to know beforehand how many people plan to attend.

The East Regional Conference will take place on October 2 at Lonsdale School, Stevenage, and that in Wales during November.

New emphasis on education

Change of role for Lancaster and Dene Park

by PAT TAYLOR

THE Spastics Society, hard hit by inflation, is having to rethink its priorities in the light of changing needs. As a result, it has decided that it can no longer maintain two industrial training centres for young spastic people. Accordingly, its Lancaster Training Centre in Slyne Road, Lancaster, will cease industrial training this month, and re-open a year later as a further education centre.

Another of its national establishments, Dene Park Further Education Centre, in Tonbridge, Kent, will close in its present form in July 1977. Dene Park caters for 45 young spastic students who are comparatively lightly handicapped physically. The new intake of such students will from next year continue their educational studies at the new Lancaster centre.

After minor conversions, Dene Park will then re-open as a further education centre to cater for the special needs of educationally subnormal young people. And, in line with the Society's pioneering role, for the first time really comprehensive further education opportunities will be offered to the adolescent with a severe mental handicap. School-leavers from the Society's Meldreth Manor School, which caters for children with IQ's around the 30-50 range, will be among those attending the centre. Others will come from two further Society schools, Ingfield Manor and Irton Hall.

The planned two-year course, which will embrace learning about leisure and living with people as well as such basic subjects as domestic training and woodwork, is designed to help its students mature and make them better able to cope with life in residential centres, work centres and in the community.

Says Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources: 'For some time now we have been concerned to provide more opportunities for the slow-learning multiple handicapped child to mature in his own time. By re-using our existing centres in this way we have achieved 40 further education places for such children, whose needs are all too often ignored by statutory authorities; and at little cost to the Society as the amount of money involved in conversion is comparatively small.'

And he points out: 'When Lancaster opened as an industrial training centre in 1968, it was to meet a desperate need. Its past value to the community is demonstrated by the fact that over the years it trained nearly 600 handicapped young people of whom approximately 70 per cent were enabled to find jobs in open or sheltered employment. But more recently there has been a fall-off in demand

for industrial places as more training centres have been opened by the Department of Employment and other agencies.

'Since we are a voluntary body operating largely on donations from the public, we must ensure that the best possible value is obtained for this money, and that maximum use is made of the limited resources available. Also, as the Employment Service Agency makes a substantial contribution towards the cost of maintaining trainees at our industrial centres, we are equally concerned that every pound contributed by the taxpayer is used efficiently, and for the maximum good of all those spastic people for whom we care. That is why this decision was taken.'

However, the 40 spastic trainees at the centre will not suffer in any way. Most of the engineering trainees will have time to finish their courses and, hopefully, move on to employment. The few who have not completed their courses will move to the Society's other training establishment, Sher-rards, at Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts, which will in future cope with all industrial training.

Lancaster also incorporates a separate unit providing instruction in routine office work. This section will continue to function normally as it is planned to merge it into a commerce course which will form part of the educational curriculum when the centre re-opens in 1977.

Offers—and wants

WANTED: Battery operated wheelchair, any type, suitable for use out of doors. Offers to: Mrs C. Ross, 53 Montague Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, or telephone (01) 89 38116.

FOR sale: Braune electric chair, three wheels, battery operated; in good condition; £120 or nearest offer. Write Mr L. Topol, 65 Whitchurch Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex. Tel 01-952 7971, after 7 pm.

MR. F. Spannring has written from Vienna to say that he is concerned with placing spastic trainees in open or sheltered employment. Some of his clients aged between 16 and 30 would like pen-friends in this country.

Please contact: F. Spannring, Behindertenhilfe der Stadt Wien, 16, Seeböckgasse 12-14, Vienna, Austria.

NEW £5-A-WEEK CASH BENEFIT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN.

If you have a severely disabled boy or girl aged 11 or over, he or she may qualify for the new £5-a-week Mobility Allowance to help them get out and about.

This is a new benefit for those who are unable (or almost unable) to walk. It is up to you how you use the Mobility Allowance to help your child get about.

You can claim now if your child is aged 11 or over (i.e. if he or she was born before 25.11.65).

Anyone who is aged 15-50 and has not claimed already should do so immediately. Disabled children under 11 will qualify later. So will other age groups.

Fill in the coupon so that we can send you leaflet NI. 211 which includes a claim form and tells you more about the scheme. Or you can ask at your local Social Security office.



MOBILITY ALLOWANCE. CLAIM NOW IF YOUR CHILD IS AGED 11 OR OVER.

Please send me a copy of leaflet NI. 211 about Mobility Allowance.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Age _____ (Anyone aged 11-50 can claim NOW).

To: Mobility Allowance Unit, DHSS, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3TA.

MOBC/SNI



MISS Brecon Show in the Newton electric wheelchair.

From strength to strength at Rhuddlan

MOST of our readers will know of the Rhuddlan and Delyn Spastics Group, which operates in north-east Wales. Recently its first chairman and founder member, Mrs Lilian Platt, decided to retire in view of the pressures on her as the result of her husband's position as Liberal Party agent in that area.

The group has been very fortunate in that at its AGM Mr J. J. Seddon, who recently retired as registrar of Liverpool University, took over the chairmanship, and Mr J. H. Hubbard, consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the local hospitals, agreed to become the group's first president. Members are extremely pleased that the two men have agreed to work for the improvement of services to the disabled in this part of North Wales.

The Rhuddlan and Delyn Group is going from strength to strength, and now has a new Support Group based at Mold. The group is fortunate to have two councillors on the committee, and Councillor John Humphrys is chairman of Mold Council. Already this young Support Group is going ahead and planning many fund-raising functions. Many congratulations to them in their work for the disabled.

Colwyn Bay's shop success

THE Spastics Shop at Colwyn Bay is extremely successful and is averaging well over £130 a week. The success is due in the main to its manageress, Mrs Wendy Gunning, and in the support given to the shop by Colwyn Bay's secretary, Miss Rosalind Osborne and her band of supporters. Good luck to their efforts on behalf of their Society and the Wales Regional Fund.

EVERY year Colwyn Bay Rugby Club has organised a donkey derby to raise funds and this year the Colwyn Bay Society was able to have a stall there. The stall sold jewellery and Spastics News, and gave away brochures on the Society's work, but at the end of the day they had made £35. This was an extremely valuable fund-raising exercise besides being good public relations for both the local group and The Spastics Society.



MRS Elizabeth Haines, running the jewellery stand, talks to interested visitors. Many foreign tourists bought jewellery as souvenirs of their visit to Wales.

'Show within a show' pays off

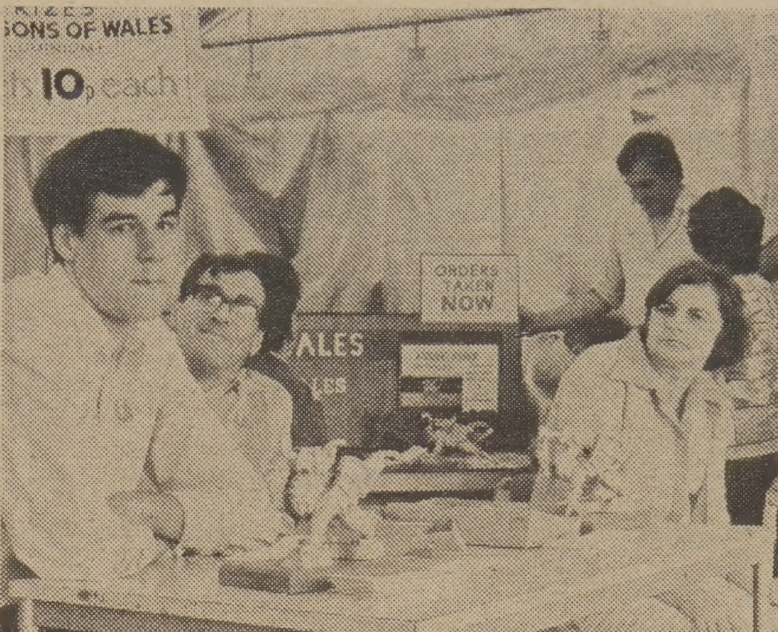
AT Brecon Agricultural Show on August 7, five facets of the work of The Spastics Society were combined by Wally Haines, the local appeals officer for Wales, under one 'canvas' roof. Spastic cards, jewellery from the Homework Section, Newton Aids, Sully work centre and the regional social worker showed the people of mid-Wales their work.

Mr and Mrs Ron Butterfield, of Spastics Cards Ltd, had a continual flow of people dipping into their pockets buying early for Christmas. It was also noticed by Elizabeth Haines that people were thinking about Christmas when buying from the jewellery stand, which she ran. People were very impressed with the quality of the jewellery produced by the Homework Section and the prices were very competitive.

Mr Martin Corby, of New-

ton Aids, displayed a range of products and particular interest was shown in the electrically propelled wheelchair. The very charming Miss Brecon Show, Kathleen Jones, showed great interest in the work of the Society and was game enough to try the electric wheelchair and enjoyed the ride.

Miss Freda Davis, the regional social worker, was able to assist with many of the queries that arose with parents and friends of disabled people, and their thanks were noted by the number who contributed to the collecting tins after having a discussion with



SULLY workers selling raffle tickets. Left to right, Paul Utting, Reg Diwlworth, and Joan Newbury, with Mr Ross Richards, the Sully manager, in the background.

Miss Davis.

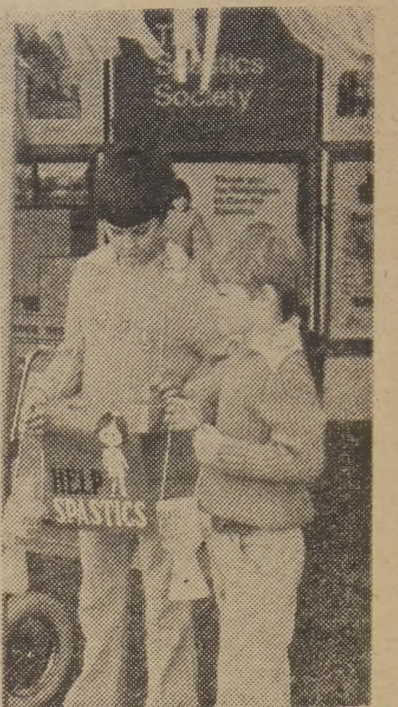
Wally, having written or spoken to most of the voluntary organisations in Brecon, was unable to get anyone to act as flag sellers so he made the day into a family outing, with his wife selling jewellery, his mother-in-law and his sons Phillip and Richard, aged 10 and seven respectively, selling flags. A wonderful job they did, and at the end of the day the collecting boxes contained £41.

Mr Ross Richards, of Sully Work Centre, had a magnificent reception with his display of Welsh dragons and house signs produced at the

work centre. It was also a great day out at the show for 15 spastics workers from the centre, and a great deal of hilarity was generated by the toilet facilities provided at the show ground!

Although the event was aimed to publicise the work of the Society to people of Mid-Wales with the view of future fund-raising, great interest was shown by a large number of foreign visitors and many of them bought jewellery as souvenirs of their visit to Wales.

Invitations for the local appeals officer to give talks have already been received from organisations in the Mid-Wales areas, and on reactions to date the display proved to be a very worthwhile venture, thanks to the efforts of Mr Richards and his staff at Sully work centre who gave every assistance to Wally in organising the event.



YOUNG Phillip and Richard Haines selling flags at the 'show within a show.'

They raised cash and publicity

THE Llanelli and District Doorknock has been planned for some months by the Wales Regional Officer, John Roberts, and in an effort to increase the scope of the collection, John's wife, Elaine, together with his two young daughters, Nicola and Leanne, accompanied by their friends, Jenny Hardy and Sheila Hardy, held a collection of their own at an Ideal Home Exhibition at Llanelli.

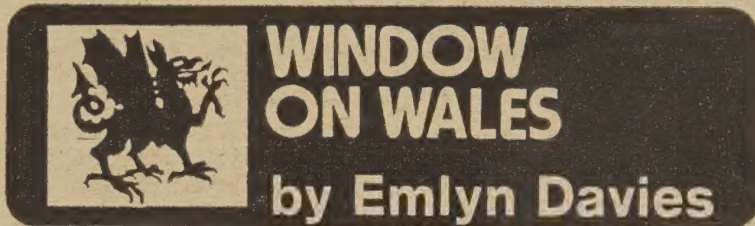
During the week the local radio station at Swansea held a live programme at the Exhibition and DJ Chris Harper interviewed young Sheila Hardy, aged 13, on the reasons why they were collecting. Indeed, the Doorknock was given maximum publicity on the radio, proving the value of contact with local stations.

Elaine and her young team collected £70 during the three days, a very worthwhile result.

Hostel couple are married

FROM the Swansea Hostel the sound of wedding bells, when residents Valerie Ray and Leighton Griffiths were married at the Guildhall Register Office, Swansea. A fellow resident, David Evans, was best man, and a cousin of the groom, Mrs Lynne Giles, was matron of honour. The reception was held at the Pier Hotel, Mumbles.

The couple will continue to live at Swansea Hostel, in specially converted married quarters, and we wish them every happiness.



Spending cuts are hitting services for the handicapped

THE reduction in local authority spending ordered by the Government is having a severe effect on the Principality.

The hostel to be built at Llandudno Junction has been cancelled; the adult training centre which has been completed in Aberystwyth for over a year is only to be opened on a limited basis; there is a question mark over the opening of the Ammanford adult training centre, and the sheltered work-

shop at Haverfordwest is to remain closed.

In a country which only has a population of 2,750,000 these cuts are quite severe and charities must play a positive role in trying to assist and pressurise local authorities into maintaining and, if possible, expanding planned services. The Welsh local groups and the Regional Co-ordinating Committee have an important role to play here in isolating the priorities in areas of greatest need.



Jean will be sadly missed

ON a sad note I am sorry to report the death of Mrs Cantello, wife of Mr Wilf Cantello, who is assistant to Trevor Davies, warden of 'Brynawel' adult house unit in Cardiff. Wilf and his late wife, Jean, have worked at the hostel for three years and her help will be sadly missed.

Thanks for Buxton bus

NEWS from 'Brynawel' of the holiday organised by Trevor Davis for all residents, who went on a two-week tour around Wales. Everybody enjoyed it immensely and as the holiday could not have taken place without the loan of a specially adapted bus from the Society's Buxton Centre in the North of England, Trevor has asked me to publicly thank Mr Simpson, the manager, for letting them borrow the coach.

READERS of this page will remember a short article on the success of the Cardiff swimming club for handicapped people. Peter Mort, pictured here, is the son of Mr and Mrs Mort, executive committee members of the Pontypridd and District Spastics Society. He is holding the senior progress shield, which is presented by the Cardiff club to the swimmers who have made the greatest progress.



Plaque for service to community

MR G. O. Williams, treasurer of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society and vice-chairman of the Wales Regional Co-ordinating Committee, is better known to his many friends and associates as either 'G.O.' or 'Gwil.' He has been a magistrate for 10 years, but as he has reached the age of three score years and ten, he has retired as an active magistrate, and the picture shows Gwil holding a plaque which was

presented to him for his services by his fellow JP's.

Many congratulations to you, Gwil, on 10 years of service to the community and the fact that you are to continue to sit as magistrate on the local Queen's Bench Division. We know that your enthusiasm and dedication to the Wales Region will continue as ever.

Books on wheels

FOR those living in the Clwyd area a mobile library service is operating in the Glyndwr district especially for handicapped or housebound persons.

For all those disabled who would like to know more about this service, please contact: Janice Wilson, Glyndwr Area Library, 46 Clwyd Street, Ruthin. Telephone Ruthin 3040.

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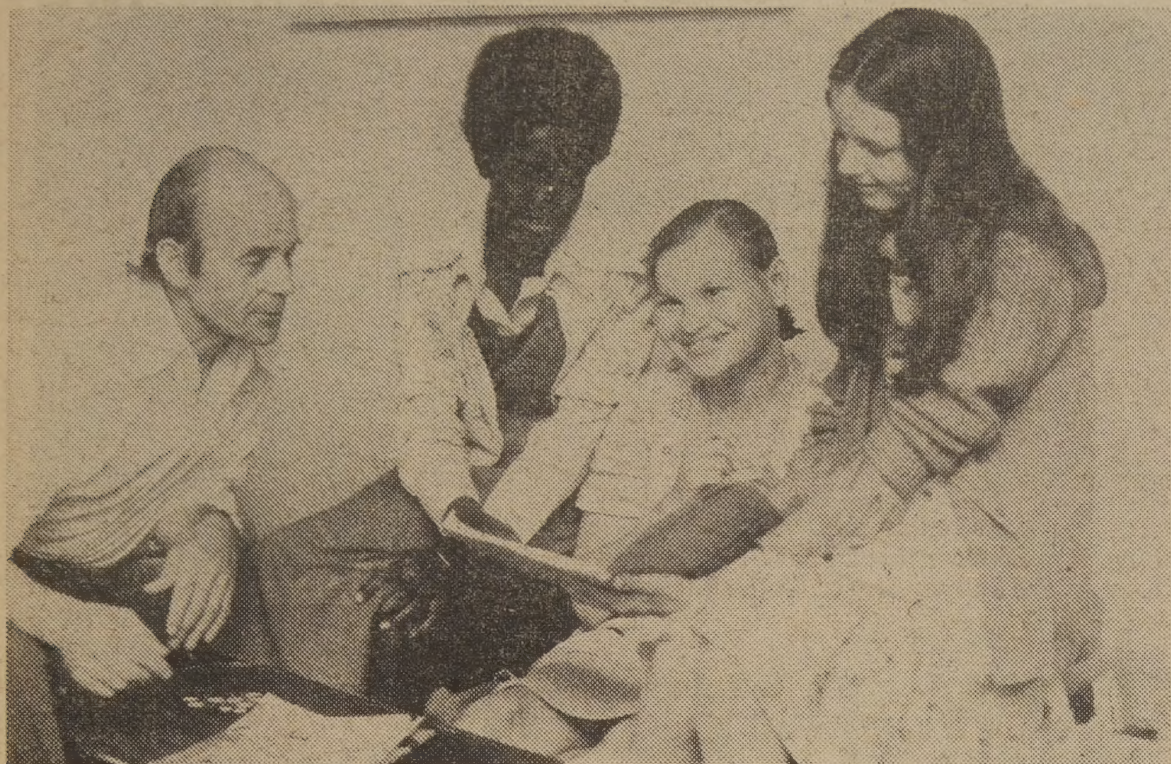
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Young 'friends in need'



NORTHAMPTON school-girls Maria Dance and Sharon Holmes have proved real 'friends in need' to Lesley Eatwell, 18, a severely - handicapped spastic and her father Fred. The couple moved to Northampton over two years ago and although Lesley attends a day centre, her father found it increasingly difficult to run their home and look after her single-handed. He had to give up his job as a male nurse in order to devote time to Lesley and this meant they had little money to spare for luxuries.

However, the Northampton and County Spastics Society offered help with providing household equipment such as a washing machine and with holidays. Further support came from Maria and Sharon, both aged 14, who have befriended Lesley, helped with her personal care, and encouraged her to walk and talk a little. Maria prepared a book with words to match the pictures while Sharon taught Lesley colours and shapes.

Mr Eatwell is delighted with his daughter's progress since her young friends took over.

Picture shows (left to right) Fred Eatwell, Sharon, Lesley and Maria.

Picture by courtesy of Northampton Chronicle & Echo.

Dinnertime chat led to £1,500 donation

WHEN Ron Edwards, metallurgical charge-hand, went to the anniversary dinner given in his honour after 25 years service by his firm, the London and Scandinavian Metallurgical Company, Rotherham, he got more than he bargained for—£1,500 for a specially adapted caravan for spastics.

Ron joined the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics and Handicapped Societies, which are run as one, 2½ years ago. He set up a caravan fund and bought a caravan with all the facilities for use by the Societies, and by now chairman, was working hard to raise the money for the second fund when he attended the celebratory dinner.

It was then that in conversation with his Departmental boss Mr S. W. Hall, the caravan project came up. Mr Grunfeld, the company's managing director, is a member of the Variety Club of Great Britain, and he started asking Ron exactly what it was that was needed.

'Well,' said Ron, 'I've got £1,300 and I need a minimum of £1,500 and I want all the furnishings — toilet, shower, hot and cold water.'

The following week Ron was summoned to Mr Hall's office and was told 'We've got a surprise for you' — and there

was a letter and cheque from Mr Grunfeld. Now Ron is looking for a site for the second caravan, probably somewhere in North Wales. 'All disabled people will be able to stay there and we'll charge just a nominal fee to cover the site costs — if they can afford it — otherwise even the sum of £10 or £25 will be waived,' said Ron.

Interested in toy libraries?

THE Toy Libraries Association has arranged the following forthcoming events of interest to parents and people involved with running toy libraries for the handicapped.

September 8. — 'Toy libraries on parade'—a one-day conference at the Grocer's Hall, London. September 14. — 'I can use my hands'—a one-day event to provide basic knowledge for parents and toy librarians about the development of hand function. At the Toy Libraries Association, Sundry House, Gunthorpe Street, London E1 7RW. October 22. — 'Play it by Ear'—a one-day course on all aspects of hearing impairment, toys and play, at the Toy Libraries Association. November 15-19. — Residents Course on 'Running a toy library' at Burton Manor, Wirral, Cheshire. Further details from Toy Libraries Association (tel: 01-247 1386).

A walk in a Welsh forest

A SPECIAL forest walk for blind and disabled people has been opened at Betws-y-Coed, North Wales. There is a 300-yard length of pavement, with seats, handrails and passing points for wheelchairs, and plates fixed at intervals along the railings give information in braille about the forest scenery. A stream runs alongside and the woodland trail ends in a picnic spot with seats overlooking a waterfall.

The path, called the Garth Falls Walk, starts near the A5 and has a small car park. It was provided by the Forestry Commission and is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Couple raise £3,000 for Croydon

FOR the past six years, Dennis and Brenda Mabey have organised and run a darts tournament in aid of the Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society, during which they have raised over £3,000.

They do a marvellous job, running the whole complex and time consuming operation themselves. The tournament runs for several months in pubs in the Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton area, culminating in a presentation dance, at which winners receive their trophies.

This year, the dance was held in the Wallington Public Hall, and a cheque for £600 handed over to the Society by Mr and Mrs Mabey.

Only Joanna, aged seven, volunteered

WHEN officials at a Lowestoft holiday camp called for volunteers to take part in a sponsored swim in aid of spastics, only one person stepped forward. Little Joanna Ward, aged seven, of Sheffield, became the heroine of the camp as she completed 88 lengths of the pool in 1½ hours.

Sponsored swims are run every week at the camp in aid of charity, and Joanna is probably the youngest-ever child to take part. She raised £104.



ROGER Young, 24, of Welwyn Garden City, puts in some practice for the silver jubilee of the Hertfordshire Archery Association. Roger, who is spastic and confined to a wheelchair, first took up the sport 11 years ago. He is now president of the Howard Bowmen archery club and practices regularly with fellow members in spare time from his job as a machine operator.

At the National Archery Meeting at Oxford he was presented with the Wheelchair Archer of the Year trophy—a silver bowl. The award came as a complete surprise as Howard Bowmen members had sent in the nomination without his knowledge.

Picture by courtesy of Watford Evening Echo.

International Games results



WINNERS line up on the dais to receive their hard-earned medals at the International Spastics Games.

Cont from Page 3

for distance javelin and shot put. Howard Jones, Edge Lane, Stretford, Manchester. Gold medal for football.

KENT: Trevor Broad, Valence School, Westerham. Gold medal for distance javelin, club and archery. Silver for 50 metre swim. Bronze for long jump. Timothy Richards, Valence School. Gold medal for football. Silver for 25 metre swim, 50 metre swim, 60 metre run and club. Bronze for distance javelin, shot and high jump. Alun Francis, Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge. Silver medal for wheelchair club. Bronze for wheelchair slalom and 60 metre wheelchair dash. Anthony Honour, Thomas Delarue School. Gold medal for wheelchair slalom and wheelchair relay. Silver for wheelchair club and 60 metre wheelchair dash. Bronze for 25 metre swim. Janet Lewis, Thomas Delarue School. Gold medal for wheelchair club and wheelchair relay. Silver medal for light shot. Deborah Day, Thomas Delarue School. Silver medal for 80 metre run, 400 metre run and shot put. Bronze for precision javelin. Carole Matthews, Thomas Delarue School. Gold medal for wheelchair relay. Bronze for wheelchair slalom.

NORFOLK: Leona Edwards, St James Close, Norwich. Silver medal for club. Bronze for 60 metre run, light ball and cricket ball.

NOTTINGHAM-SHIRE: George Pinnick, Mansfield and District Disabled Sports Club, Mansfield. Bronze medal for discus. Anne Wiltshire, Homerwater Drive, Warsop, Mansfield. Gold medal for precision javelin, light shot, light ball and cricket ball. Bronze for club. Ann Lovegrove, Wilford View Hostel, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford. Gold medal for 60 metre run.

SOMERSET: Barbara England, Sandhill Park Hospital, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton. Gold medal for club. Silver for 60 metre run.

SURREY: Claire Ribiero-Ayeh, Clements Mead, Leatherhead. Gold medal for wheelchair slalom, wheelchair relay and 60 metre wheelchair dash. Silver for 50 metre swim. Bronze for wheelchair club.

SUSSEX: Helen Batchelor, Hallyburton Road, Hove. Silver medal for cricket ball.

TYNE AND WEAR: Michael Churchill, Gravesend Road, Grindon, Sunderland. Gold medal for discus. Norman

Burns, Percy Hedley School, Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Gold medal for distance javelin, precision javelin and weight-lifting. Silver for 25 metre swim and archery. Bronze for 50 metre swim and rifle shooting. Dennis Sproates, Percy Hedley School. Gold medal for wheelchair club, wheelchair slalom, wheelchair precision javelin, wheelchair relay and 80 metres wheelchair dash. Kevin Opie, Percy Hedley School. Silver medal for weight-lifting. Michael Flynn, Percy Hedley School. Gold medal for discus. Silver for 400 metres. Bronze for club. Anthony Wilson, Percy Hedley School. Gold medal for cricket ball. Barry Scott, Percy Hedley School. Gold medal for weight-lifting. Sally Cushing, Percy Hedley School. Gold medal for shot, light shot and cricket ball. Silver for precision javelin. Bronze for club.

WEST MIDLANDS: David Small, Broadstones Hostel, Broadstone Road, Birmingham. Gold medal for discus. Silver for distance javelin. Bronze for precision javelin. Michael Digges La Touche, Broadstones Hostel. Silver medal for discus. Bronze for shot and club. John Lord, Stoneford Road, Shirley, Solihull, Birmingham. Gold medal for 400 metres run and high jump. Silver for long jump. Bronze for discus. Jane Bancroft, Broadstones Hostel. Gold medal for precision javelin. Silver for club. Lynn Challinor, Broadstones Hostel. Silver medal for precision javelin and cricket ball. Bronze for club.

WILTSHIRE: Mark Riley, Leighton Park North, Westbury. Gold medal for wheelchair relay. Silver for wheelchair slalom and 80 metre wheelchair dash. Bronze for wheelchair club.

SCOTLAND: Simon Karner, Mearns Road, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire. Gold medal for distance javelin, discus and football. Silver for shot, weight-lifting, rifle shooting, 60 metre run and run relay. Bronze for 25 metre swim. Kevin McKenzie, Bogany Terrace, Glasgow. Gold medal for football. Silver for 400 metres and run relay. Robert King, Bellrock Crescent, Edinburgh. Gold medal for precision javelin. Brian Quinn, Piershill Square East, Edinburgh. Gold Medal for wheelchair relay. Liliane Rae, Calderburn Road, Polbeth, West Calder, West Lothian. Gold medal for club and 50 metre swim. Silver for archery, light ball and 25 metre swim. Bronze for precision javelin, light shot and cricket ball.

'Mickles' from Scots children

'**MONY** a mickle makes a muckle' seems to be an old Scottish saying well-imbued in the very young of Edinburgh these days. Twice recently the new Trinity Centre for Spastics has benefited from jumble sales organised by generous-minded kiddies.

The first was mounted by five little girls on the back green of their homes around Easter Drylaw Place. They were Rosemary Robertson, Kirstie McLeod, Yvonne Boyd, Donna Jack and Karen Wallbanks and their efforts raised £10.

Another group, all aged under 11, collected £18 from a sale at Longstone Gardens. They were Mandy Watson, Gillian and John Finlayson, Rhona and Russell Molloy, Catherine Newsome and Jill Watson.

'I never cease to be staggered by the enthusiasm and initiative of such youngsters, pounds in this way,' says Miss Hilary Roberts of the Spastics Appeal Office.

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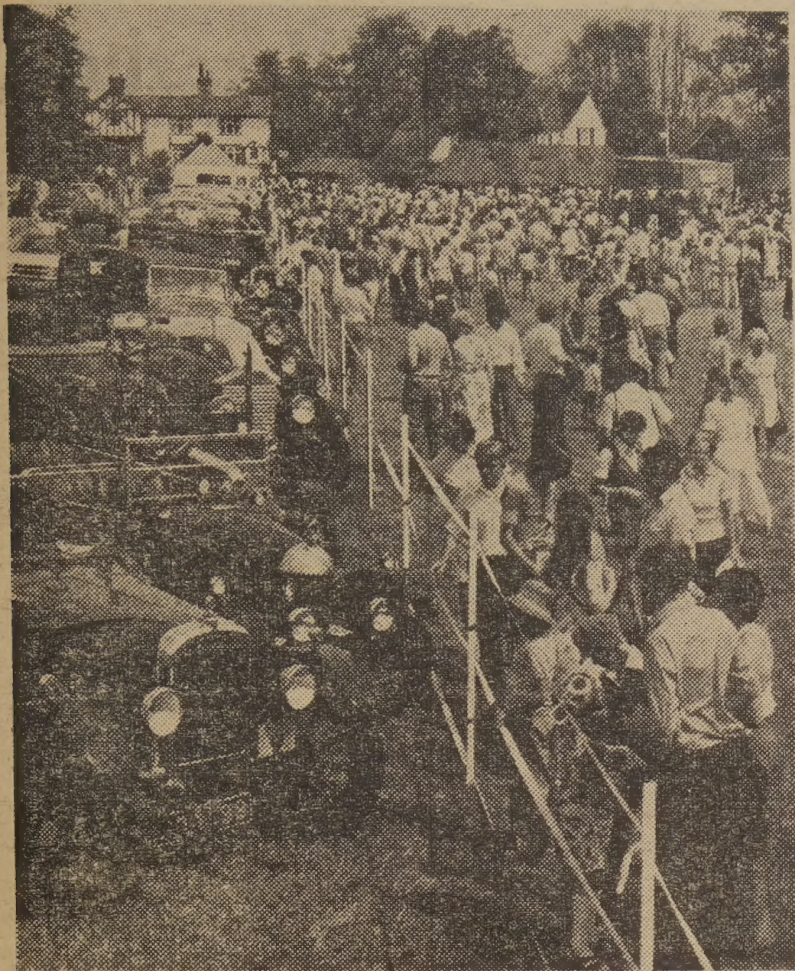
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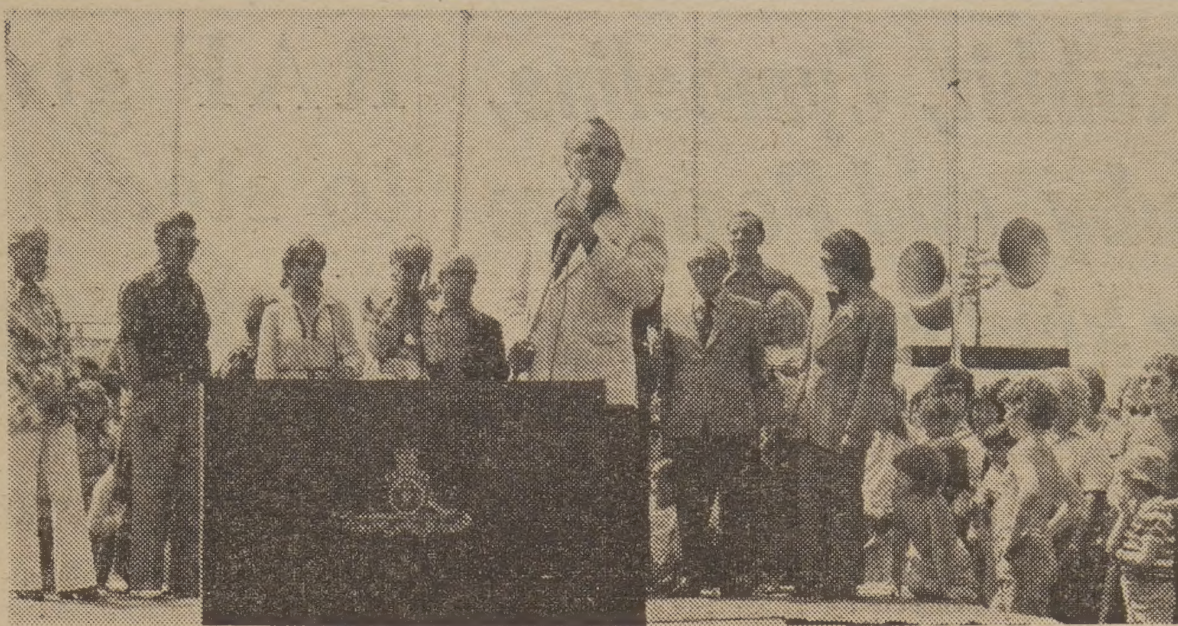
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THE beautiful vintage cars were just one of the many attractions that helped make the open day one of the best ever.



DICKIE HENDERSON addressing the crowds at the Wakes Hall open day. Dickie is watched by many other SOS celebrities including Jack Howarth (Albert Tatlock of Coronation Street) and Arthur Askey. BELOW: Ian Dawson Sheppard, member of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society is pictured (left) selling raffle tickets to visitors.

Record for Wakes Hall open day

WAKES Hall open day this year raised a record total of £5,000 and was visited by 14,000 people. The centre, which provides residential accommodation for spastic adults, is run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and show business personalities were out in full force.

Autograph hunters were kept busy spotting such well-known faces as Arthur Askey, Dickie Henderson, Jack Howarth, and 'Man About the House' stars Yootha Joyce and Brian Murphy. The equine star of the TV serial 'Black Beauty' was also popular.

Soldiers and their families from 47 Light Regiment stationed at Colchester Barracks gave invaluable help.



Study day on technical aids for children

EDTECH '76 is the title of a study day to be held on Saturday, October 30 at New Mossford, Ilford. It is an intensive one-day course covering a broad range of electrical, electronic and other technical aids for handicapped children. It is essentially of a practical nature and ample opportunity will be given to try equipment on show. A small exhibition will be mounted.

The study day will be of interest to teachers, therapists, educational psychologists and other professionals. Organiser

is Roger Jefcoate, consultant assessor and lecturer on electronic equipment for the severely disabled.

The fee is £6.25, including refreshments. Volunteers, parents and non-professionals—£4 inclusive.

New Mossford is only five minutes' walk from Barking-side station on the Central Line. It is also close to the North Circular Road and the A12.

Further details from The Secretary, Edtech '76, New Mossford, Civic Way, Barking-side, Ilford, Essex IG6 1HH.

Singer opens new centre and meets an old friend

EDWARD House, a £99,000 residential centre built by the Dorset Spastics Society, has been officially opened by Matt Monro. The singer, and his wife Mickie, are old friends of Karen Groves, 19, a spastic member of the group.

Karen was unable to speak for the first seven years of her life, until her parents happened to buy a Matt Monro LP 'Hits of Yesterday.' When the record was played, Karen began to mouth the words of the song and gradually her speech has become almost normal.

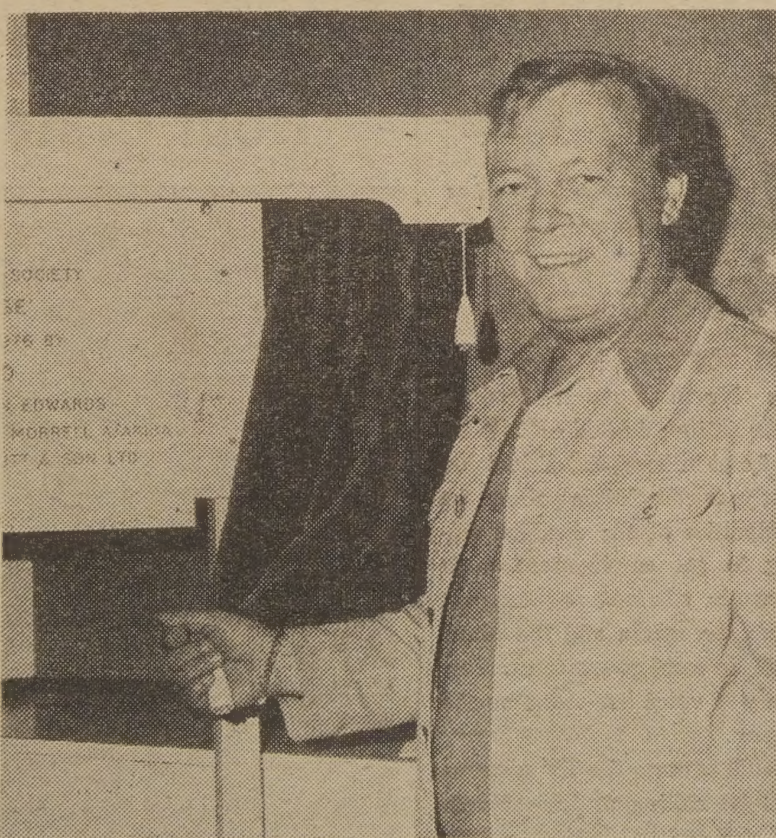
When Matt Monro was appearing in a Bournemouth show, Karen was taken by her parents to meet him and she became a firm friend of the singer and his wife, who have corresponded with her ever since.

Karen's father, Mr Derek Groves, said that the friendship had really helped his daughter.

It has brought her out of herself. Before, she was very shy,' he said.

When the new centre in Poole was completed, Matt Monro was the obvious choice to perform the opening ceremony and unveil a commemorative plaque. Karen was there as well to present him with a dolphin in Poole pottery.

The centre, which now has 12 full-time residents, was named after Mr John Edwards and his wife Phyllis, founders of the Dorset Spastics Society.



Picture by courtesy of Evening Echo, Bournemouth.

Wilfred Pickles at namesake's birthday

THE Society's Wilfred Pickles School at Duddington, near Stamford, Lincolnshire, has celebrated its 21st birthday with a combined speech day and anniversary party. Wilfred Pickles, OBE, the actor, who has been associated with the school since it opened in 1955, presented the prizes and gave an anniversary address.

The school, which caters for children of average intelligence, has 66 boarders and four day pupils in the age range of five to 14. It also has a special unit for partially-hearing spastic children, which has done much pioneering work in this field.

He's 70—but he ran 46 miles for spastics

MR Mark Caplan, 70, takes a brief rest during a 46-mile sponsored run from Plymouth Dockyard to Exeter, in aid of spastics. Mr Caplan, who achieved this feat with temperatures soaring into the 90s, had a medical check-up beforehand and was told he had the heart of a man of 35. He hopes to collect about £200 from sponsors for the Trengwath Spastics Centre in Plymouth.

Commented Mr Caplan, "Too many people of my age seem to spend their time sitting about on benches waiting for the undertaker to come along."

Picture by courtesy of Western Morning News.



Why not adopt a granny?

A HIGHLY successful 'adopt a granny' scheme is operating in 21 American cities, bringing together lonely, elderly people and handicapped children in residential care.

There are over 100,000 old people on the waiting list for the scheme. Severely handicapped children benefit from having a 'grown up of their own,' and the idea works well because older people are more understanding with the emotional problems of disturbed and handicapped children.

Perhaps old peoples' organisations and disablement groups could get together to provide a similar scheme in this country?

Disabled riders have new school

LEYBOURNE Grange Riding for the Disabled group, West Malling, Kent, has a fine new indoor riding school, officially opened by actor Jack Warner. The group is run by Mrs Jennifer Weller, herself spastic, whose work with horses and dogs has been featured in past issues of Spastics News.

The newly opened building, in the grounds of Leybourne Grange subnormality hospital, cost £24,000, of which £14,000 has so far been raised. This includes many voluntary contributions and a loan from a charitable organisation in Kent.

Forget walks-now it's sponsored hitching...

A SPONSORED 'hitch' by four sixth-formers from Durrants School, Hertfordshire, has raised £147 for the Watford Spastics Centre.

The quartet all managed to reach Scotland in less than 24 hours. Stephen King, 18, and Paul Atkins, 16, thumbed lifts to Stirling—a total distance of 420 miles. Neil Barney and Karen Gallichan, both 18, travelled the 563 miles to Petershead by the same method.

All four were sponsored by family and friends and their cheque for £147 was handed over to Mrs Jean Simmons, Matron of the Watford Spastics Centre.

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Ella, Pert, Rabbit, Cymbeline, Emerald, Ruby, and Pearl are hoping for kind new homes

ELLA, Pert, Rabbit, Cymbeline, Emerald, Ruby and Pearl are on their way to a new home for the time being — at the Society's Kyre Park Residential Centre near Tenbury Wells, Worcs.

They don't want much out of life—just a shelter to get out of the present sweltering heat, and lots and lots of love. For they are seven Shetland ponies,

four brood mares and three yearlings, standing all of 42 inches high at the withers.

Their owner, Mr Jack Ramsden, of Market Deeping, Peterborough, explained how he has come to be giving them away: 'I've been breeding Shetlands for a number of years but now I've retired and we're moving to a new smaller home with no land. These are show ponies and they haven't been used for riding, more as family pets—it's going to be an

awful wrench parting with them.

'There are problems connected with selling them simply because grass is so scarce now. Because they are so docile my daughter suggested children's homes and then my wife, Ann, said, 'what about The Spastics Society?' They are very hardy little creatures—they need shelter in the summer to get away from the heat and flies, but in the winter, given the option, they'd rather stay outside than go in. If there's no grass about, then they need hay.

'Of course, they'll be sad to leave us, as we are sad to lose them, but as long as they get plenty of loving attention they'll get used to being separated.'

Mr Hedley, Kyre Park's warden, is giving the ponies a home up till the time other Spastics Society groups and centres ask for them. And the commercial value of Mr Ramsden's generous gesture can be estimated from the fact that each of the mares cost him £200.

Julie just wouldn't be beaten

JULIE WILKINSON, 11, of Hartlepool, Co Durham, is a keen cyclist, despite spasticity in both legs, and this summer she achieved a 100 per cent pass in her cycling proficiency test.

Julie, who has been cycling since the age of seven, failed the test last year but, determined not to be beaten, she took it again and passed with flying colours.

She has also been awarded her 50 metres swimming certificate, although she has to rely on one arm for propulsion.

Julie is seen with some of her classmates at Rossmere Junior School, Hartlepool.

Picture by courtesy of Mail, Hartlepool.



Publicity aids his search for attendant

WHEELCHAIR student Richard Gomm is preparing for his third year at York University, but up to the middle of August it looked as though he might have to discontinue his studies because he could not find an attendant to provide personal care. He cannot walk, talk or use his hands and communicates by means of a letter-board and a 'unicorn' strapped to his head. He also uses the 'unicorn' for typing.

Richard, 23, a former pupil of the Society's Thomas Delarue School, won the male poetry prize in the literary contest for spastics in 1973, and has had two volumes of poetry published. He was also a finalist in The Spastics Society's Achievement Award for 1975.

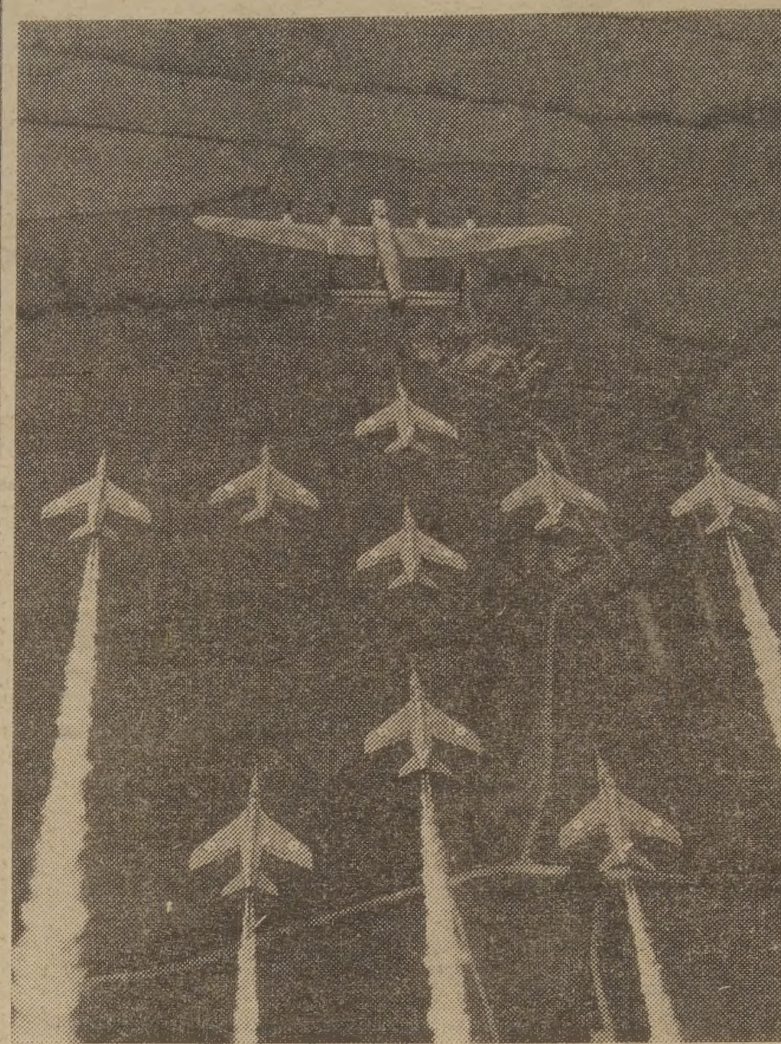
He needs an assistant to help with personal care and in his first two years at York, where he is reading philosophy, post-graduate students took on the £14-a-week job—a girl last year and a man before that. But now there are fewer post-graduate places and when nobody had come forward as an attendant towards the end of the 1976 vacation, Richard was, in his own words, 'Getting fairly desperate.'

But following publicity in two national Sunday newspapers, it looks as though the problem has been solved. At home in Ewell, Surrey, Richard's mother, Mrs Kathleen Gomm, told Spastics News:

'We've had quite an encouraging response—the papers have forwarded mail and we're hoping one will prove suitable.'

'Richard isn't the sort of person to get depressed. Even before the publicity he was quite optimistic and kept saying: "I feel sure the right person will come along," and now, of course, he's very optimistic indeed!'

RAF gives lift to steam rally



A BIRD'S eye view of the old and new—the RAF's last flying Lancaster bomber from World War II roars over the countryside escorted by the crack aerobatic Red Arrows team. On the ground a record crowd of 36,000 held their breath at the display put on by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Red Arrows, the Poachers and the Falcons as part of the tenth Lincolnshire Steam Spectacular.

And the Lincoln Spastic Society Show Committee, which organises the spectacular, had their hopes flying just as high as their aerial

attractions that a bumper amount would be raised for Lincolnshire spastics by the event.

For the attendance figure at the Lincoln County Showground for the mid-August weekend rally, which has become one of the premier crowd-pullers in the county's tourist round, was 10,000 up on last year.

The arena was filled with 30 steam engines puffing through their paces, while outside it traditional fairground organs merrily tinkled through theirs.

A contented committee member, surveying the scene, said happily: 'This is the best supported steam rally held anywhere!'

Picture by courtesy of the Ministry of Defence.

TV serial helps the 'Bionic' children

THE Six Million Dollar Man and his mate, the Bionic Woman, are giving a bionic boost to Britain's handicapped children, claims an Edinburgh psychiatrist. For the children watch the successful American television series about Steve Austin and Jaime Sommers, played by Richard Anderson and Lindsay Wagner, about a couple who have been rebuilt by scientists, and identify with them.

The psychiatrist has discovered that disabled children are losing the image of themselves as 'cripples' and have started thinking of themselves as bionic wonders.

'It means they accept modern medical gadgets more readily,' he said. 'It's a fantasy, but a fantasy that has had a marked beneficial effect on spastics, epileptics and other afflicted youngsters.'

'Children with weak limbs or in need of orthopaedic care have told me, "Now I'm bionic." It makes life a little more bearable for them. Over the past few months more children have mentioned this to me and now I'm beginning to use the word bionic to make modern gadgets more acceptable to them. And it works. Where children were once scared they are now intrigued. Stress is relieved. The programmes have had a very good effect.'

One hasty letter, and Liz has her 'soap box'

LIZ SORREL, a member of the North London Spastics Association, dashed off a letter to London Weekend Television last year complaining about the difficulties of the disabled trying to get employment, both because of lack of support from the media and the blank spots in local government. Now she will voice her views on the screen.

This autumn the TV cameras will be rolling at Liz's North London flat for the LWT production called 'The London Programme,' to be screened on Sunday evenings in the winter.

Liz explained: 'I pointed out the injustice where firms that are supposed by law to have three per cent of their work force drawn from the disabled often claim they can't because their workshops are on the upper storey and the handicapped are not allowed to work above the ground floor. Or else they claim to have met the quota and you discover they're employing someone with just one digit missing.'

In the programme Liz will be telling viewers just what it means to be disabled and how everyday 'injustices' to the handicapped should be tackled.

Gift for founder member from grateful group



MISS A. SCOTT has retired from the Northampton and County Spastics Society after 24 years of continuous voluntary service. She became the group's first vice-chairman, and since then has been a member of the Welfare Committee, and the executive committee, has served on the Regional committee and represented the Northampton group at national Society conferences and meetings.

She was also the group's representative on the committee of the Gladstone Handicapped Centre.

Miss Scott is pictured receiving her retirement gift of a candelabra from Mr Fred Tompkins, president and a fellow founder-member of the Northampton and County Spastics Society.

Picture by courtesy of Northampton Chronicle & Echo.

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